OUTLOOKS

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Canada's Gay Community Magazine

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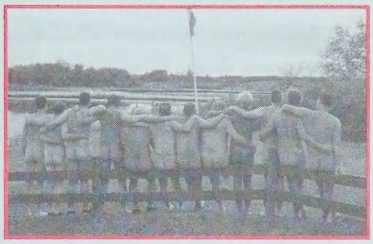
Cover: Even when they're not demons, David DeCoteau's male stars are hotter than Hell! Photograph from Brotherhood 3 *courtesy of David DeCoteau & Rapid Heart Pictures*

what's where



ALL THE NUDES THAT S FIT TO PRINT

A naturist club in one of Canada's chilliest cities? Well, why not?! Outlooks' usually clothed contributor David King strips down to get the "skinny" on Edmonton's Buck Naked Boys Club.

PATCHING THINGS UP

Taking a cue from a Robin Williams flick about an unconventional doctor, Winnipegger Denis Blais has taken to clowning around in his retirement.

SCARY, MARY

A chat with David DeCoteau, master of homoerotic horror and one of Winnipeg's newest and most enthusiastic ambassadors.

VOYEURISTIC CHIC

The Food Network's Christine Cushing (pictured right) is only one of the "big guns" involved with Toronto's Fourth Annual Studio Tour, a chance for the public to take a peek at the inner sanctums of the design and lifestyle world's elite. The fact that proceeds go towards the fight against AIDS makes it all the more worthwhile.

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LETTERS

Dear Editor:

I want to offer a few friendly correctives to John Coulbourn's September editorial.

Firstly, marriages are now, as they always have been, a civil union. When a minister of religion officiates at a wedding, he/she acts not only as a minister of his denomination, but equally as a civil servant responsible for ensuring the civil licensing and registration obligations linked to the marriage.

Secondly, Mr. Coulbourn uses the term "Catholic" when he seems to mean "Roman Catholic". This is a widely held generalization gladly fostered by the Roman Catholic Church. Not *all* GLBT Catholics find themselves unable to have a marriage which is both a Catholic Sacrament and legal—the Old Catholic Church of Canada, of which I am a priest, celebrates the marriages of GLBT couples, as it does our full inclusion in this Catholic Church. If your readers would like more information, they may find it at **www.undiscoveredself.com/saintluke**.

Reverend Father Roger LaRade
Community of Saint Luke Old Catholic Parish
Toronto, Ontario

Note: Due to the scope of the issue, the story on the enforcement of liquor laws in Alberta will now appear in the November "Issues Issue" of *Outlooks*.

WE WANT YOUR LETTERS

Sign your name and include your address and phone number. All letters are subject to editing—and please, no more than 400 words. Write to:
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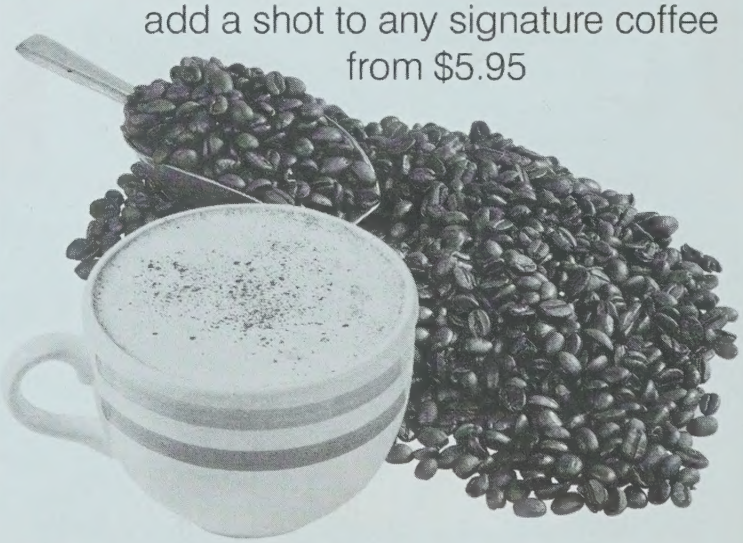
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Divided we fall

By Roy Heale

Some of the recent public opinion polls have shown that Canadians are almost equally divided when it comes to the issue of recognizing same-sex marriages. Recently, on September 16th, we received a sharp jolt of reality when Parliament endorsed gay marriage with a 137-132 vote against the Canadian Alliance motion to uphold the 137-year-old definition of marriage. This razor-thin majority in support of Chretien's new marriage act could increase or decrease either way by the time the new marriage act is before Parliament for the real vote. Estimates range from spring '94 to fall '94 before the real test occurs.

Lest we become complacent as a community, we know for sure that the right wing conservatives and religious lobby groups will be extremely active during the coming months. Recent public opinion polls indicate sixty percent of Canadians who oppose same-sex marriage would vote against their MP in the next election if they were to favour the controversial legislation. This is *definitely* enough to heat up the most secure Liberal seats in the House of Commons, although it might make for better television viewing on election night.

However, we can take heart in the fact that a similar vote in 1999 showed only fifty-five MPs in support of a new definition of marriage. The current trend toward increased support for same-sex marriage will have to be nurtured between now and voting time next year if same-sex nuptials are really going to become a part of Canadian law. During this time lapse, we'll have a new prime minister—almost certainly Paul Martin—as well as a new Liberal cabinet and a party preparing to win another election. Not a good time for a brave act by a rookie government. In his own words, Paul Martin (a devout Catholic) said, "This is an issue that I've had to wrestle with and I must say this has not been an easy decision. What has certainly tipped the balance, as far as I'm concerned, is the decision that the courts have taken… that this is a rights issue and you cannot discriminate." Although Mr. Martin said he does not believe including homosexuals *will* erode the stature of marriage, you can be sure he'll be carefully studying the Supreme Court opinion on the new marriage act.

Lance Bateman and Bill Woods, a couple who came all the way from Hawaii to wed in Vancouver.

Now is the time for the GLBT community across Canada to join together and lobby the MPs who voted to uphold the definition of marriage as exclusively involving one man and one woman. It is these elected representatives who will need to be convinced that this is an issue of equality as protected by the Canadian Constitution. If they only hear from those opposed to gay marriage, then it is unlikely they will vote in support of the new marriage act when the time comes. It would be easy for us all to become complacent when same-sex marriages are legally taking place in Ontario and B.C., along with the appropriate festivities. Amidst the celebrations of wedding vows, we need to be sure our voices are being heard in the right constituency offices, and also in the corridors of the Parliament buildings in Ottawa.

To this end, a new group called "The Friends of Gay and Lesbian Marriage" has provided a list of all MPs who voted to uphold the current definition of marriage. This list appears on page 9 of this issue and we encourage all of our readers to contact these politicians and make their opinion heard.

On a final note, if the notion of same-sex marriage is opposed, there have been suggestions that a different word such as union be used in its place. Although this would still be discriminatory to same-sex couples, we suggest that, if it helps the cause, gay and lesbian marriages could be referred to simply as "Canadian Alliances" from here on in, likely a *far* more palatable term for the religious and political right than mere "marriage". ▼

To read the complete House of Commons debate, visit: www.parl.gc.ca For Chamber Business, Debates-complete Hansard, September 16.

OUTLOOKS

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Publisher . . . . . **Roy Heale**
Assistant Publisher . . . . . **Kevin Persaud**
Copy Editor . . . . . **Michael Wright**
Associate Editor . . . . . **David Crosson**
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Sales/Marketing . . . . . **Dean Burton**
Sales Representative . . . . . **Cap Peters**
Toronto Sales/Marketing . . . **D&G Advertising**
Website Administrator . . . . . **Kevin Persaud**
Contributing Writers . . . . . .

David Crosson, Charlene Lichtenstein, Rick Matthews, Peter Carlyle-Gordge, Gerard MacMullin, Dale Smith, Michael Wright, David King, Josh Murray, Jason Fantastic, Ashley Anderson.

Distribution ..... DLRJ Enterprises Ltd., Calgary
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Outlooks Mailing Address:
Box 439, Suite 100,
1039 17th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2T 0B2
Phone: (403) 228-1157
Fax: (403) 228-7735
Toll-Free Fax: 1-877-885-6657
Vancouver Office:
(604) 818-0446
vancouver@outlooks.ca
Outlooks Toronto:
David Sean Mulligan, Sales Representative
(416) 645-0113
Toll-Free (866) 645-0113
Calgary Office Toll-Free:
1-888-228-1157
Primary E-mail: main@outlooks.ca
Editorial: editor@outlooks.ca
Sales: dburton@outlooks.ca
Graphics: graphics@outlooks.ca
Toronto Sales: dmulligan@outlooks.ca,
d-gadvertising@rogers.com
World Wide Web: www.outlooks.ca

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out & about

Small Change Big Changes

(right) Happy as Pigs in...Change!
Small Change committee member Alan Senneker (left) helps get party-people Neil and Doreen into the spirit of the event.

(above) Dears in the Headlights?
"Girls about town" Andrew Clelland (left) and David Stewart appear a bit taken aback by the glare of the flashbulbs... have another drinkie, darlings.

(left) Swine Before "Pearls"
A pair of big-hearted volunteers help dole out the goods at the Small Change official launch party.

(right) Canadian Gothic?
Small Change...Big Changes Co-founder/2003 Chair Sherrie MacRae with past Co-chair (and *Outlooks'* Copy Editor) Michael Wright.

(below) Here's Mud in Your Sty
Committee members Bryan Peffers and Nan Myers hoist a glass in honour of a good cause.

(above) Two-way Tie
Gary Courtney and Daryl Aarbo (centre and right) look remarkably relaxed in their post-work "drag", while Mike takes a decidedly more casual approach to his "form at the function".

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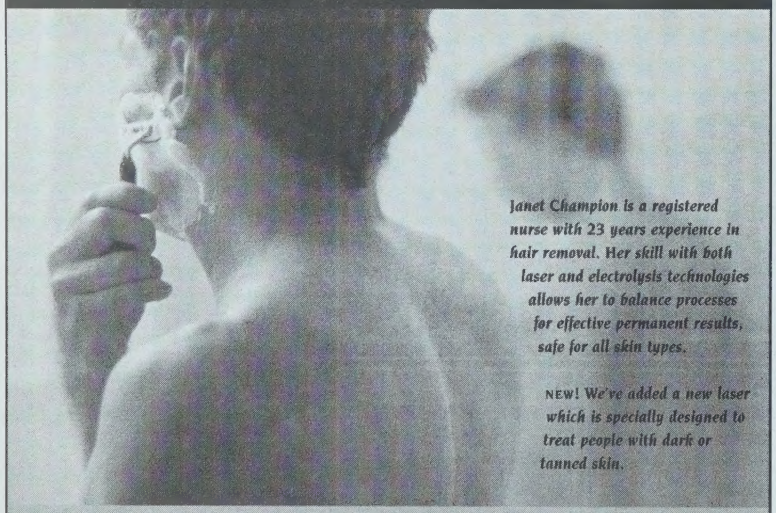

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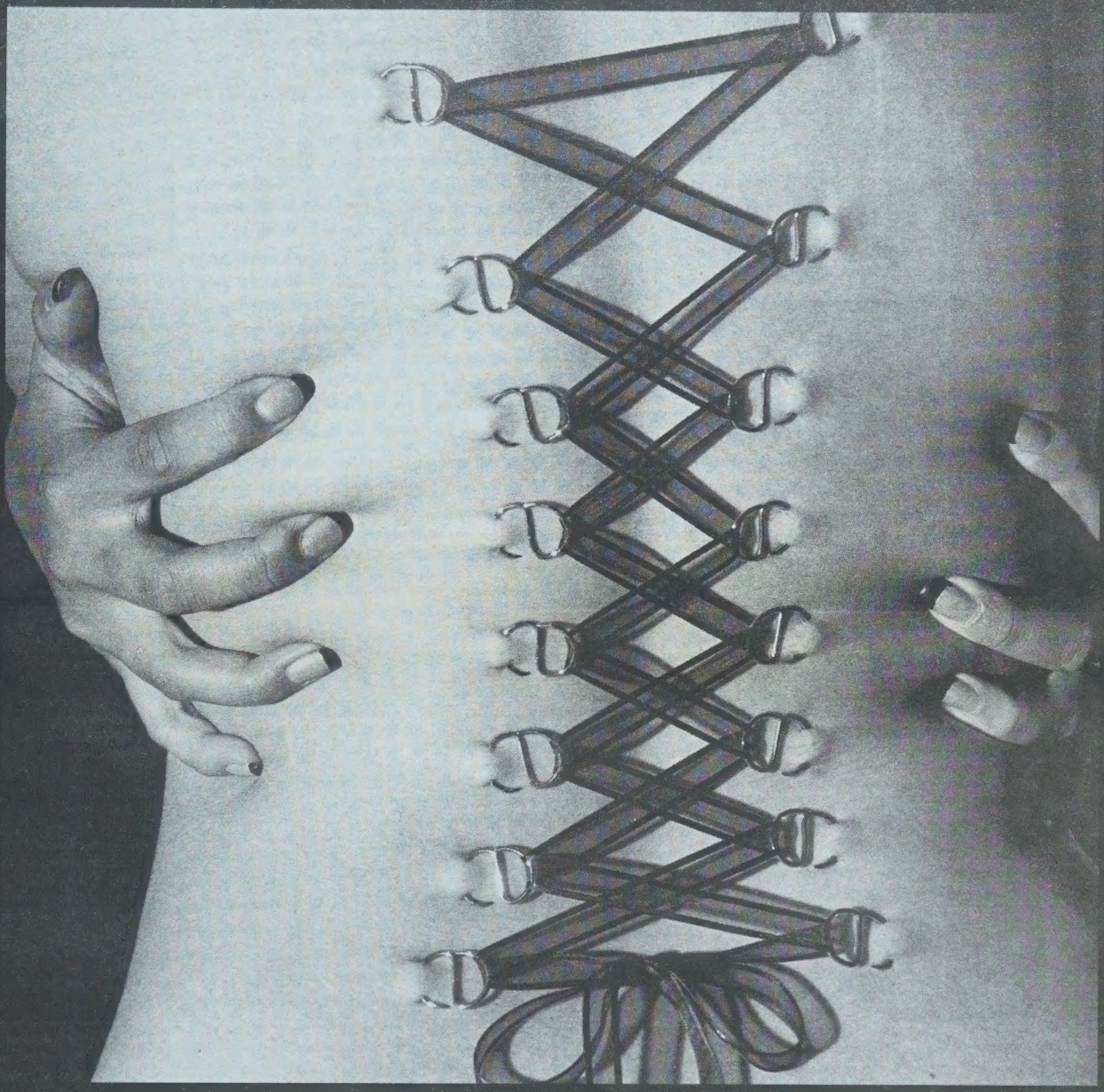

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Catching up with Cloclo

By Peter Carlyle-Gordge

Fifty-four-year-old Denis Blais grew up in Quebec with six siblings and spent the first part of his life milking cows, before realizing the world had better things to offer than a never-ending row of udders.

He moved to Winnipeg thirty years ago, worked in factories, and then decided to go to university and become a teacher, which he did at the age of thirty-six. Blais taught in rural Manitoba and eventually wound up teaching Grade 2 in the Winnipeg School Division. That was quite a daring career change, but he has no regrets and next June will retire.

But he won't be sitting idly at home twiddling his thumbs—he's in the middle of another creative switch, which began in 1999 when he saw the movie *Patch Adams*, starring Robin Williams. In it, Williams plays a trainee doctor who believes healing only occurs when a patient and doctor truly connect on an emotional level. Sterile, medical detachment is not for him and Adams dons a clown outfit when visiting his patients. The medical establishment doesn't like this kind of familiarity, but the movie story has a happy ending and the message is that laughter, joy and deep connection at a human level are all vital to true healing.

Blais saw the movie and it changed his life. Often subject to periodic depressions himself, he realized he could step outside himself with a new clown persona. He also realized that wearing a clown disguise not only put his own problems into a healthier perspective, but it brought healing and laughter to many troubled souls needing a break from the humdrum daily grind. He signed up for a Winnipeg clowning course with fifteen other people, graduated and got a certificate

"When I told some friends in France about it, they laughed and asked why it had taken me so long to figure out I was a clown," Blais says. "They told me they had *always* regarded me as a clown."

Some friends and colleagues thought he was nuts, too, but that didn't deter him and since graduating Blais has clowned at parties, schools, in seniors' homes, on buses, planes, subways and in shopping malls. This summer he had several professional engagements at Manitoba summer festivals, including the ones in the Franco-Manitoban communities of St. Malo and St. Pierre. Wherever he travels, he usually has at least a red nose in his pocket and he's been known to stick it on in unlikely places.

"The first time I decided to clown in public I was on the subway in Montréal and I just put my red nose on, hoping people would join in and laugh," he says. "It took a lot of guts at the time."

Fortunately for him, the reaction was positive and it gave him the confidence to don the nose and slip into the clown character of Cloclo, his "stage name", whenever and wherever the spirit moved him. Sometimes he will put the nose on while driving his car, especially if he sees stressed-out drivers. They usually do a double take, then laugh as he contorts his face. Much better than giving impatient drivers the finger.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, a clown is "a familiar comic character of pantomime and circus, known by his distinctive makeup and costume, ludicrous antics and buffoonery, whose purpose is to induce hearty laughter. The clown, unlike the traditional fool or court jester usually performs a set routine characterized by broad, graphic humor, absurd situations, and vigorous physical action".

Some of the earliest ancestors of the clown were present in ancient Greece. These comics were bald-headed and padded to appear larger than normal. They performed as secondary figures in farces and mime, parodying the actions of more serious characters and at times threw nuts at the spectators. A similar type of clown also was present in the Roman mime, which wore a pointed hat and a patchwork, colourful robe and was the target for all the tricks and abuse of his fellow actors.

Blais is aware of the long history of clowning. It is a serious business and he has learned how to do his own makeup (it can take an hour) and has also acquired much clown paraphernalia, including a suit, large spectacles, funny hat, umbrella, water-squirting camera and other odds and ends. One day, he says, he just might enrol in the clown school run by the Cirque du Soleil in Montréal, so that he can hone his skills, especially those of contortion.

He has clowned aboard planes flying to Paris and Vancouver and his red nose usually goes with him when he goes on solitary cycling tours, whether in Europe or across Canada. This summer he cycled 1,000 kilometres in the Alberta Rockies, stopping off at Edmonton's Klondike Days to clown with pedestrians. In Calgary, he added a few bits to his clown kit and dropped in unannounced at a hospital to bring a smile to the faces of some paralysed patients.

He has also cycled across France, Switzerland and Belgium.

"One woman in Paris was reduced to tears when I put my nose on and began clowning," he recalls with pleasure. "She had tears of laughter streaming down her face."

This is the kind of emotional connection he enjoys. It gives him pleasure to brighten a few lives because most people are too busy, stressed and frantic. He especially enjoys ad-libbing, tuning into people's conversations and coming back with something absurd.

Denis Blais as his carefree alter-ego Cloclo

"When I become a clown I learn a great deal about other people," he says. "Clowning is therapeutic and healing and it appeals to all ages, from the very young to the very old. Recently, I was cycling at Clear Lake, Manitoba, and I put my nose on while watching the sunset from the beach. The people loved it."

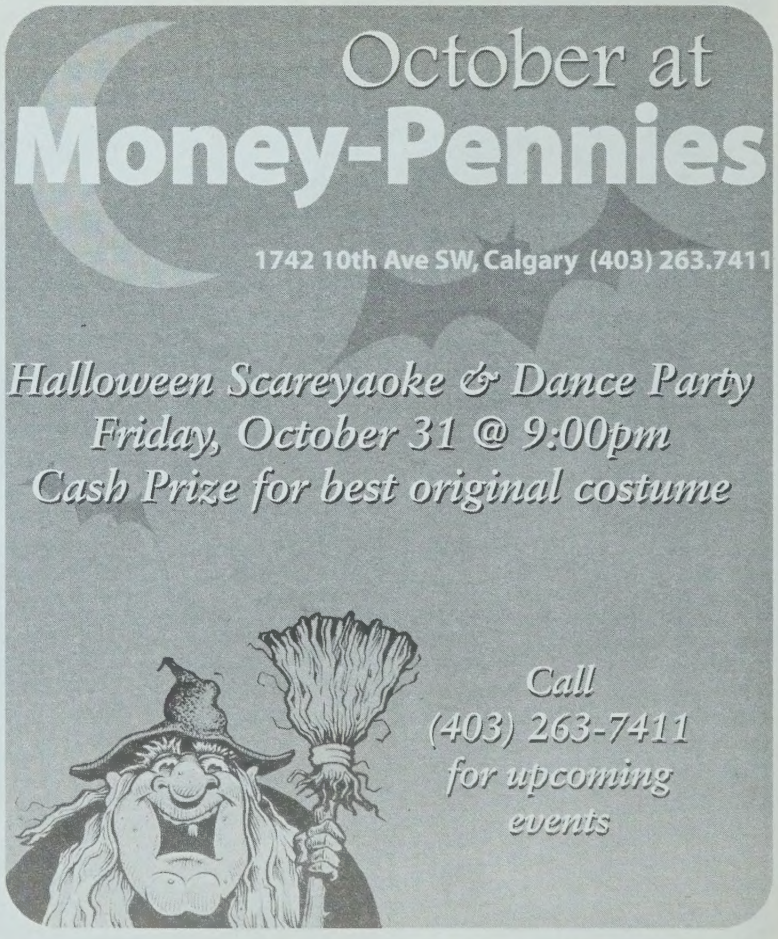
He believes the clown brings out the child in all of us, including himself. It allows a return to that joyful, childlike freedom—a nice holiday from the long-faced seriousness of everyday life. He also feels a deep sense of emotional satisfaction when his clowning is well received and people start to laugh.

After retirement next June, he'd like to do much more clowning with both seniors and children. Blais also plans to carry on with his long cycling excursions and to spend more time painting in watercolours, a form he loves.

Though gay himself, he hasn't yet attempted any clowning in a gay setting:

"I will *eventually*, but they might be a very tough audience to get through to," he laughs. "I still have hesitation when I consider doing something like that." ▼

Peter Carlyle-Gordge is a former Manitoba correspondent for* Maclean's *and* The Financial Post. *He has written for most major magazines and newspapers in Canada as well as broadcasting on the national and international networks of CBC Radio.



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It is important to make your opinions known on this important issue. Below is a list of M.P.'s who should be contacted to express your views, comments and concerns. You can email them or send a letter to your M.P. at House of Commons Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6 (no postage required for this address). Take action NOW before the next vote in the House of Commons.

M.P.'s not listed below are in support of Gay & Lesbian Marriage.

M.P.'S WHO VOTED AGAINST GAY & LESBIAN MARRIAGE

L = Liberal CA = Canadian Alliance PC = Progressive Conservative BQ = Bloc Quebecois NDP = New Democrats

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Mackay, Peter	**Mackay.P@parl.gc.ca**	**PC**

Abbott, James	Abbott.J@parl.gc.ca	CA
Ablonczy, Diane	Ablonczy.D@parl.gc.ca	CA
Anders, Rob	Anders.R@parl.gc.ca	CA
Anderson, David	Anderson.Da@parl.gc.ca	CA
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Bonin, Raymond	Bonin.R@parl.gc.ca	L
Breitkreuz, Garry W.	Breitkreuz.G@parl.gc.ca	CA
Bryden, John H.	Bryden.J@parl.gc.ca	L
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Chatters, David Cameron	Chatters.D@parl.gc.ca	CA
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Fontana, Joseph Frank (Joe)	Fontana.J@parl.gc.ca	L
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Goldring, Peter	Goldring.P@parl.gc.ca	CA
Gouk, James William (Jim)	Gouk.J@parl.gc.ca	CA
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Grey, Deborah	Grey.D@parl.gc.ca	CA
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Herron, John	Herron.J@parl.gc.ca	PC
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Hilstrom, Howard E.	Hilstrom.H@parl.gc.ca	CA
Hinton, Betty	Hinton.B@parl.gc.ca	CA
Hubbard, Charles	Hubbard.C@parl.gc.ca	L
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Lee, Derek Vincent	Lee.D@parl.gc.ca	L
Lincoln, Clifford	Lincoln.C@parl.gc.ca	L
Longfield, Judi	Longfield.J@parl.gc.ca	L
Lunn, Gary	Lunn.G@parl.gc.ca	CA
Lunney, James D.	Lunney.J@parl.gc.ca	CA
Malhi, Gurbax Singh	Malhi.G@parl.gc.ca	L
Maloney, John	Maloney.J@parl.gc.ca	L
Mark, Inky	Mark.I@parl.gc.ca	PC
Martin, Keith	Martin.K@parl.gc.ca	CA
Mayfield, Philip William	Mayfield.P@parl.gc.ca	CA
McCormick, Larry	McCormick.L@parl.gc.ca	L
McGuire, Joseph Blair (Joe)	McGuire.J@parl.gc.ca	L
McKay, John	McKay.J@parl.gc.ca	L
McNally, Grant	McNally.G@parl.gc.ca	CA
McTeague, Dan	McTeague.D@parl.gc.ca	L
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Obhrai, Deepak	Obhrai.D@parl.gc.ca	CA
O'Brien, Pat	OBrien.P@parl.gc.ca	L
O'Reilly, John Francis	OReilly.J@parl.gc.ca	L
Pallister, Brian William	Pallister.B@parl.gc.ca	CA
Pankiw, Jim	Pankiw.J@parl.gc.ca	PC
Penson, Charles Frederick	Penson.C@parl.gc.ca	CA
Peric, Janko	Peric.J@parl.gc.ca	L
Peschisolido, Joe	Peschisolido.J@parl.gc.ca	L
Pickard, Jerry	Pickard.J@parl.gc.ca	L
Pillitteri, Gary Orazio Vincenzo	Pillitteri.G@parl.gc.ca	L
Pratt, David	Pratt.D@parl.gc.ca	L
Provenzano, Carmen	Provenzano.C@parl.gc.ca	L
Rajotte, James	Rajotte.J@parl.gc.ca	CA
Reed, Julian	Reed.J@parl.gc.ca	L
Reid, Scott	Reid.S@parl.gc.ca	CA
Reynolds, John Douglas	Reynolds.J@parl.gc.ca	CA
Ritz, Gerry	Ritz.G@parl.gc.ca	CA
Savoy, Andy	Savoy.A@parl.gc.ca	L
Schellenberger, Gary	Schellenberger.G@parl.gc.ca	PC
Scherrer, Helene C.	Scherrer.H@parl.gc.ca	L
Schmidt, Werner	Schmidt.W@parl.gc.ca	CA
Serre, Benoit	Serre.B@parl.gc.ca	L
Sgro, Judy	Sgro.J@parl.gc.ca	L
Skelton, Carol	Skelton.C@parl.gc.ca	CA
Solberg, Monte	Solberg.M@parl.gc.ca	CA
Sorensen, Kevin	Sorenson.K@parl.gc.ca	CA
Speller,Robert (Bob)	Speller.B@parl.gc.ca	L
Spencer, Larry	Spencer.L@parl.gc.ca	CA
St.Julien, Guy	St-Julien.G@parl.gc.ca	L
Steckle, Paul	Steckle.P@parl.gc.ca	L
Stinson, Darrel	Stinson.D@parl.gc.ca	CA
Strahl, Charles (Chuck)	Strahl.C@parl.gc.ca	CA
Szabo, Paul John Mark	Szabo.P@parl.gc.ca	L
Thompson, Gregory Francis	Thompson.G@parl.gc.ca	PC
Thompson, Myron	Thompson.M@parl.gc.ca	CA
Tirabassi, Anthony (Tony)	Tirabassi.T@parl.gc.ca	L
Toews, Vic	Toews.V@parl.gc.ca	CA
Tonks, Alan	Tonks.A@parl.gc.ca	L
Ur, Rose-Marie Margaret	Ur.R-M@parl.gc.ca	L
Vellacott, Maurice	Vellacott.M@parl.gc.ca	CA
Venne, Pierrette	Venne.P@parl.gc.ca	BQ
Volpe, Joseph	Volpe.J@parl.gc.ca	L
Wappel, Thomas William	Wappel.T@parl.gc.ca	L
Wayne, Elsie Elesnore	Wayne.E@parl.gc.ca	PC
White, Randy A.	White.R@parl.gc.ca	CA
White, Ted	White.T@parl.gc.ca	CA
Wilfert, Bryon	Wilfert.B@parl.gc.ca	L
Williams, John G.	Williams.J@parl.gc.ca	CA
Yelich, Lynne	Yelich.L@parl.gc.ca	CA

M.P.'S WHO WERE ABSENT FROM THE VOTE

Bakopanos, Eleni	Bakopanos.E@parl.gc.ca	L
Belair, Reginald	Belair.R@parl.gc.ca	L
Bergeron, Stephanie	Bergeron.S@parl.gc.ca	BQ
Cardin, Serge	Cardin.S@parl.gc.ca	BQ
Carroll, M. Aileen	Carroll.A@parl.gc.ca	L
Comuzzi, Joseph R. (Joe)	Comuzzi.J@parl.gc.ca	L
Desjarlais, Bev	Desjarlais.B@parl.gc.ca	NDP
Desrochers, Odina	Desrochers.O@parl.gc.ca	BQ
Fournier, Ghislain	Fournier.G@parl.gc.ca	BQ
Gallaway, Roger John	Gallaway.R@parl.gc.ca	L
Hearn, Loyola	Hearn.L@parl.gc.ca	PC
Kilgour, David	Kilgour.D@parl.gc.ca	L
Laframboise, Mario	Laframboise.M@parl.gc.ca	BQ
Laliberte, Rick	Laliberte.R@parl.gc.ca	L
Leung, M. Sophia	Leung.S@parl.gc.ca	L
Macaulay, Lawrence A.	MacAulay.L@parl.gc.ca	L
Matthews, Bill	Matthews.B@parl.gc.ca	L
Mills, Dennis Joseph	Mills.D@parl.gc.ca	L
Myers, Lynn	Myers.L@parl.gc.ca	L
O'Brien, Lawrence D.	OBrien.L@parl.gc.ca	L
Owen, Stephen	Owen.S@parl.gc.ca	L
Pacetti, Massimo	Pacetti.M@parl.gc.ca	L
Perron, Gilles A.	Perron.G-A@parl.gc.ca	BQ
Rocheleau, Yves	Rocheleau.Y@parl.gc.ca	BQ
Stoffer, Peter Arend	Stoffer.P@parl.gc.ca	NDP
Torsney, Patrica A. (Paddy)	Torsney.P@parl.gc.ca	L
Tremblay, Suzanne	Tremblay.S@parl.gc.ca	BQ
Valeri, Tony	Valeri.T@parl.gc.ca	L
Wood, Bob	Wood.B@parl.gc.ca	L

Who We Are

The Friends of Gay & Lesbian Marriage is a group that supports public awareness on this issue. The funds generated are held in trust for this purpose.

Find Your M.P.

Visit the www.canada.gc.ca website and go to Government Contacts - Your M.P. - Using Your Postal Code.

Who Said What

Read the full transcript of the Parliament debate held on September 16, 2003 on this topic. Go to www.parl.gc.ca and click on Chamber Business - House of Commons Debates - Sept 16 - Complete Hansard.

About This Ad

This public awareness advertisement is paid for by the Friends of Gay & Lesbian Marriage with special thanks to Courtney Sebree Aarbo, *Outlooks*, Bruce E. Walker, Fleur de Sel, Brian P. Mahoney and all private donors.

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WINNIPEG out & about

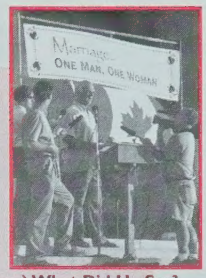
Personal Stand For Same-Sex Marriage
ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL

(above) Spreading the Word
19-year-old Adam Gratton handed out pamphlets before explaining his point of view to one parishioner.

(below) Pressed by the Press
Adam Gratton being interviewed by one of the many media crews that turned out to cover his story.

Anti-Same-Sex Marriage Rally
LEGISLATURE BUILDING

(left) Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign
You can't have any kind of rally without some of these guys showing up. Oddly enough, the majority wanted them there.



(above) What Did He Say?
Vic Toews spoke out against same-sex marriages but was drowned out by a small group of same-sex marriage supporters shouting "Stop the Hate!"

(right) Wheels of Progress
A pair of cyclists stop to speak with some of the very vocal supporters of same-sex marriages.

(above) Aren't You Two Married Yet?
Brad speaks to Liz and Reese about their upcoming nuptials. Reese's proposal to Liz was captured in August's issue of *Outlooks*.

Out There Hike
PINE POINTS RAPIDS

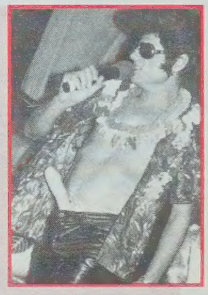
(below) Summer Siesta
One tired hiker dove into a nap instead of the water near the end of the trail.

(above) Enough Talk of Marriage, Let's Talk Sports!
Paul discusses upcoming events planned through the Out There Sports Group after the hike.

(above) Nature's Wonder
Like a bear in its natural habitat, Furry little Bob went in for a swim and came up with a fish.

Investures: A Royal Wedding
GIO'S

(below) Almost legal
Now that Empress and Emperor IV, Stephanie Lane-Barr and Tony Barr-Lane have celebrated their nuptials, could heirs be far off?



(right) All Shook Up... and Out!
Trojan Horse, Giovanni, shows off some hunka, hunka burnin' love.

Mr. and Ms Happenings Pageant
HAPPENINGS SOCIAL CLUB

(right) The People Have Chosen
Ray Banned and Breyanna Burlesque won out over some other very talented performers to represent Happenings Social Club for the next year.

(above) Finicky finger of fate
The ever resourceful Tyra Boinks demonstrates a practical purpose to having long nails.

Planning an event in Winnipeg? Contact Brent at (204) 789-9215 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. All photos by Brent

(below) I Dub Thee...
The Space Girls receive but one of several titles being bestowed during the evening. This photographer now has the title of "Paparazzi to Their Majesties".

(above) Picky picky
A pint-sized Jiminy Lickit picks his...umm, *thoughts?*

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Reasons to sing

By Michael Wright

Members of The Calgary Men's Chorus, outside their rehearsal space at the Beltline 'Y'

Fall brings the anticipation of new beginnings in Canada's GLBT Choral movement. This year is an especially exciting one, as choruses throughout the world anticipate GALA Festival VII, the Gay and Lesbian International Choral Festival to be held in Montréal from July 17-24, 2004. It's the first time that the Festival—which attracts hundreds of choruses and individual singers from around the globe—will be held outside the United States.

Calgarians will be represented at GALA Festival VII by the Calgary Men's Chorus. Entering its ninth season, the chorus will be busy, performing at the Small Change…Big Changes fundraising gala on November 15, as well as their own concert, *Ho, Ho Home for the Holidays* the following week—November 22—with special guests, The Heebeejeebees. This concert will mark the departure of Artistic Director Joe Slabe, who will be leaving the chorus to pursue other projects. The chorus has embarked on a search for a conductor to fill Joe's capable shoes, and to lead the chorus as they prepare for their summer concert, *Vive la Compagnie*, to be performed on June 12, 2004. CMC will perform selections from that concert repertoire at the Montréal Festival.

New to Calgary in 2003, the Calgary Women's Chorus began rehearsals again this fall under the direction of Robb Hogan. Even in their first season, the CWC performed as guests of the Calgary Men's Chorus in their June concert. This year, the women are going solo, preparing for their first concert, *Kindred Spirits*, in February 2004.

Linda Griffioen, president of the CWC, says that new members to the chorus are always welcome. "In order to become a singing member, women need to be able to breathe and have a desire to sing," she says.

Perhaps somewhat unique in choruses, this one has very low membership fees for singing members. "We have two main categories of membership: singing, and general. Singing members, pay only $15 per year and make their contribution by performing with the chorus. General members—those hearty souls who do the behind-the-scenes work of the chorus—pay an annual fee of $20 for individuals or $35 per couple," Griffioen adds. "We are hoping to build a large volunteer base in the organization, so that the singers can concentrate on singing. Being a new organization, there is plenty of volunteer work to be done, especially given that we have several fundraising events planned for this year."

She is proud of the clearly articulated mission of the Women's Chorus, which states that the Chorus is "...wholly dedicated to excellence in the performance of a broad spectrum of choral music. It also serves as a social network for the personal enrichment of its membership. Our organization strives to build a sense of community and positive self-image amongst women from every walk of life, and to build bridges of understanding to the greater public through enjoyable music". Judging from the enthusiasm of its members, and the quality of their guest appearance in June, one can safely say that the Calgary Women's Chorus is well on their way to fulfilling that mission.

Both choruses welcome new singers and volunteers. Given that it is a GALA International Festival year (which occurs once every four), this is an especially exciting opportunity to join a chorus… and have a great time! There's still time to join either chorus—and anyone eighteen years or older is eligible. Come sing with us!

The Calgary Men's Chorus rehearses on Sunday evenings at 6:45 in the Common Room at the Old Y, located at 223 12 Avenue SW. Phone (403) 262-6295 or go to **www.calgarymenschorus.org** for more information.

The Calgary Women's Chorus also rehearses at the Old Y on Tuesdays, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Contact Linda Griffioen at (403) 860-5455, e-mail her at enquiries@calgary-womenschorus.org, or log on to **www.calgarywomenschorus.org**

Both choruses also have information posted at **www.gaycalgary.com** ▼

IN THE NEWS

It's not the likeliest place to spring to mind when one thinks of transvestism, but apparently the province of Saskatchewan *is* in a legitimate position to boast about its long and rich history of cross-dressing. According to a new exhibit in the Link Gallery at the University of Saskatchewan, gender-swapping was a significant part of prairie life as far back as the early 1900s.

In All Frocked Up: Glimpses of Cross-Dressing in Saskatchewan, curator Neil Richards explores the various ways gender-play was embraced by "ordinary folks" and incorporated into such activities as parades, sporting events, school initiations, mock weddings and stag parties. Travelling shows that featured drag in their performances, both from the U.S. vaudeville circuit and traditional British pantomimes, were also wildly popular. One of the most successful ventures in the early 1920s was a revue called The Dumbells, the cast of which included ex-servicemen dolled up in the finest of female attire.

Though the exhibit focuses primarily on the heterosexual and historical examples of cross-dressing, Richards has also made an effort to acknowledge Saskatchewan's gay and lesbian population—including the Imperial Court of the Golden Wheat Sheaf—and other traditions of drag that continue to this day.

Comprised of photographs, press clippings and even costumes, the exhibit is a comprehensive overview of what some might consider incomprehensible in a province supposedly as conservative as Saskatchewan. Then again, the premier of *that* province didn't leap to his feet to denounce same-sex marriage…

All Frocked Up opened September 23rd and will run (quite fittingly) until Hallowe'en on October 31st. The Link Gallery is located on the first floor of the University of Saskatchewan's main library. For those who cannot make the journey to Saskatoon to see the exhibit, the entire collection can be seen online at **http://scaa.usask.ca/gallery/allfrockedup**

Horrors!

By David Crosson

Hot 'n' wet: an unfortunate victim in the DeCoteau "creature feature" Leeches

Young, pretty and in peril; it's a formula that's worked ever since Jamie Lee Curtis screamed her way into a career with the first installment of the *Hallowe'en* series. Director David DeCoteau knows this all too well, and has developed his own studio, Rapid Heart Pictures, around the concept. Now, with an ever-expanding stable of young talent and buckets of blood, the company churns out "featurette" thrillers at a remarkable rate, much to the delight of faithful audiences around the world. From his relatively new home in Winnipeg, David DeCoteau took time out of his busy schedule to tell *Outlooks* just what gives him and Rapid Heart such a powerful pulse.

Outlooks: Tell me a bit about the genesis of Rapid Heart Pictures.

DeCoteau: Well, I had been in the business for about twenty-one years, since 1986, working mainly in the 'B' movies—action, science fiction, family films, horror; that kind of thing. After a number of years of doing the same thing over and over I decided to make the kind of movies that *I* would want to see, films that were still commercial and had international appeal. In November of '99 I started Rapid Heart Pictures and produced the first movie, *Ancient Evil: Scream of the Mummy*, on my dining room table, basically! [Laughs] It had some elements of what I wanted.

Outlooks: Such as?

DeCoteau: My films are pretty politically correct—I wanted them to be PG-13 or R [rated], just for commercial reasons and international censorship issues. I rarely have course language, there's no nudity in the films, the violence is very limited. I try to lessen the presence of all those usual 'B' movie elements in my films and at the same time try to "amp up" the homoeroticism, or at least the celebration of the male form. The characters are not necessarily gay—some are maybe bi-curious—and so far it's worked out pretty well. *Ancient Evil* did quite well, and then I did a film called *The Brotherhood*, which was about a fraternity of vampires. That took off very quickly and it was very potent in terms of its homoeroticism.

Fear as aphrodesiac: a scene from Brotherhood 3

Outlooks: It's certainly achieved cult status in some gay circles, that's for sure.

DeCoteau: Believe it or not, it wasn't really a conscious choice to make these films homoerotic. I wanted to make horror movies that *I* would want to see, so there is some element of bi-curiosity and a celebration of the male form, but also very little violence. None of the characters smoke or use course language—[*The Brotherhood*] was actually a very "clean" film, because I also knew that I had an audience of young teenage girls out there who would want to see it.

Outlooks: Well, given your success and the number of Rapid Heart films out there, obviously there are many kinds of audiences with a similar interest.

DeCoteau: I've done ten films so far and have been very happy. They've done quite well internationally—no one is getting rich, I can tell you that! [Laughs]—but the investors are happy. I really felt there was an audience out there and I worked hard to find it. I have my critics, of course, but I also have tons and tons of fans who really like the pictures.

Outlooks: Have you always been interested in the horror genre?

DeCoteau: I wasn't a *huge* fan of horror films but there are a number of reasons why I stuck with them. First, horror is one of the few genres in which you can really experiment with sexuality and still get away with making it commercial or inoffensive. It's also a genre that doesn't necessarily need stars in it in order to be successful. As well, it has always been a genre that plays well around the world—it's international currency. I mean, I can't just sell films in the U.S. and make a living. It really is a director's medium—it can be done inexpensively and you can have a lot

continued opposite

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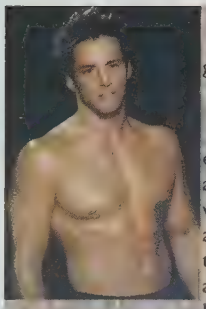

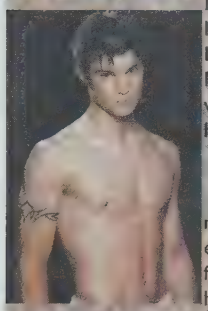

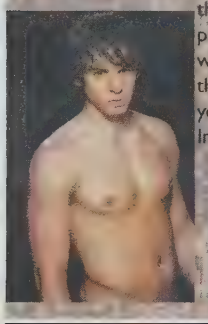

An eye for talent: a few hotties from the Rapid Heart "creature feature" Leeches

of control. Looking at all those elements, it really seemed to be the genre to stick with.

Outlooks: Tell me about your move to Canada.

DeCoteau: Well, my heritage is French Canadian—my grandparents were from Québec—but I was born in Portland, Oregon. I'd always been curious about Canada and I really enjoyed coming up to work and for film festivals and visits. I can honestly say I haven't met a Canadian that I haven't *loved*. *Leather Jacket Love Story* played both the Montréal Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and the Vancouver Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and I just really fell in love with the country. I find it much more liberal up here in Canada. On a more pragmatic level, it's where movies are made now. They may be "invoiced" in L.A. but they are made in Canada. I worked with Christopher Plummer, who as you know is Canadian, on a film called *Skeletons* and we just go along great together; he suggested that I immigrate and he even wrote a letter for me.

Outlooks: You've settled in Winnipeg now, correct?

DeCoteau: Yes, and I love it. You know, Winnipeg was "put on the map" in the States a few years ago when an openly gay mayor was elected. That was a *big deal*. I figured if guys on tractors would vote for an openly gay mayor then there must be something going on up here. At the time, many of us thought it was a very small town, but this is a city of 750,000 people, and it's very cosmopolitan and progressive. After twenty-one years in Los Angeles I decided I wanted a change and this was it—I *love* this city. And I think it's on the verge of becoming a very big city for film. Also, being a forty-one-year-old gay man, if you're in L.A. you might as well be 141! [Laughs]. In L.A., once you hit twenty-six it's pretty much over!

Outlooks: Now, speaking of youth, the young stars you employ—particularly the males—are almost *unbearably* stunning! Where do you find your talent?

DeCoteau: There's no one that works harder than me in terms of finding young talent. I worked with two really terrific casting directors in L.A. to find new and exciting talent in the eighteen- to twenty-four-year-old range—which is who I work most with—and luckily we found them. A lot of the kids that have worked with me have gone on to TV shows—I got three people that I gave union cards to on *One Life To Live*. It's really important to me to have very appealing actors—they have to be talented and have a great look, they can't just be pretty. Some are naturally gifted and get leads right away and some are "green", but they have potential so I start them out in smaller roles. It's been interesting in Canada; *Brotherhood 3* is the only Rapid Heart movie that I've shot in Canada and it was with an all-Winnipeg cast. I think there's some great talent up here and I'd really like to develop it; that's important to me.

That's a wrap: a scene from DeCoteau's first film, Ancient Evil

Outlooks: What's happening right now for you and Rapid Heart Pictures?

DeCoteau: Well, *Leeches*—my creature feature—came out in the United States in late August and it will be released in Canada in February. *Wolves of Wall Street*—essentially "stockbrokers by day, werewolves by night"—stars Eric Roberts and Michael Bergin from *Baywatch*, and it will come out October 29 throughout North America in Blockbuster and Hollywood Video stores. I've got *Speed Demon*, which is my version of *The Fast and the Furious*, and it's coming out in the U.S. in late November. It's going to be a very busy season for Rapid Heart releases. We just finished *Brotherhood 4: Boys to Death*, which is my boy-band horror film. It's stars Adrienne Barbeau, Mink Stole and Jeremy Jackson from *Baywatch*, and it should be out next spring.

Outlooks: Finally, what scares David DeCoteau?

DeCoteau: Hate. That scares me more than anything in the world. I don't see as much of it up here; I see a lot of inclusion and warmth and people who are very genuine and kind. That's what was bothering me in the States, with Bush being elected and all the right wing nonsense going on. The war. Hatred and incompetence scares me most of all. Otherwise, I'm pretty adventurous; not much else scares me. ▼

For more information on David DeCoteau and his movies, visit his site located at:

www.rapidheart.com

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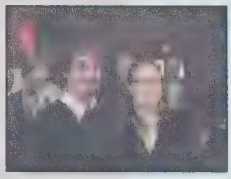
AIDS Calgary AGM
MESCALERO

(left) AGM...All Girls Meeting?
No, wait... that's AIDS Calgary's Executive Director Kevin Midbo on the end, pausing to chat with (from left) Nedra, Laurie, Jessica and Becky.



(right) Double Happiness
Travis Davies and Meghan Mahoney seem to be in fine spirits at the post-AGM cocktail reception.

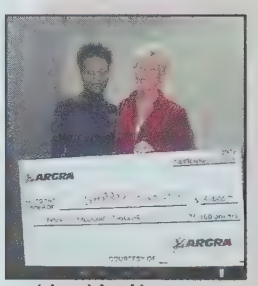
(left) Sombre Pread
Memory flags and memorabilia from twenty years of AIDS Calgary's existence.

Planning an event in Calgary? Contact Kevin or Dean at (403) 228-1157 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos By: Kevin P

Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association AGM
BELTLINE Y COMMON ROOM

(right) Executive Sweet
Members of the 2003-2004 ARGRA Board. Back Row: Greg Holsworth, Alan Frank, Alec Masse, Pierre Cadieux. Front row: Lewis Shaw, Judy Munson, Ashley Anderson, Delsing Stevenson.

(below) Cheque, Mate
ARGRA's PR man Greg Holsworth presents Small Change...Big Changes Committee Member Wade Cuthbertson with a cheque for $2,000 from the proceeds of this year's rodeo.

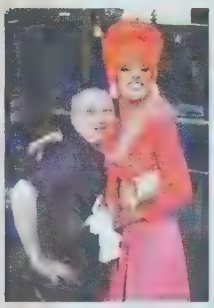


(above) Looking SHARP
ARGRA's Vice President Judy Munson (right) presents Penny Archer, Executive Director of the Society for Housing AIDS-Restricted Persons with a cheque for $3,000.

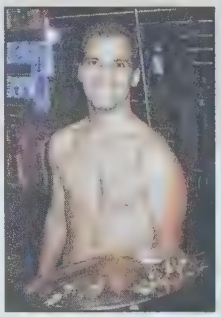
(right)Passing the Buck...er, *Bucks*!
ARGRA President Jamie Cumberland making a donation of $5,000 to GLCSA, care of the Calgary Police Service, for the development of a website aimed at gay youth.

Grand Opening Fashion Show
PRIAPE

(above) Proud Proprietors
Priape owners Bernard and Marcel flank store manager Fred on the evening of their big event.



(right) Queen, Bee
Richard, AKA Lady Bee, cuddles up to diva extraordinaire Mr. Devon Mills, looking as reserved as usual!

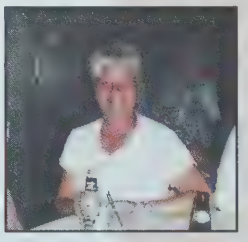


(right) Tasty? You Bet!
Todd, a snack in his own right, awaits the crowd's every whim. Does peanut sauce even go with tit-clamps?!

Bev Edwards Fundraiser
MONEY-PENNIES

(left) Denney's Divine
The ubiquitous and big-hearted Mr. Richard Denney... it was a good cause—of course he was going to be there!

(below) Sunshine in the Dark
Always glad to be helping out, Leslie offers us her signature smile.



(right) Money-Pennies, Quarters, Loonies, Twenties...
Owner Lorrie Murphy sees to it that the crowd has a good time—and that the raising of funds is a success.

(left) Getting the Goods
A few of the items on offer to help raise money for Bev Edwards.

Calgary AIDS Walk
EAU CLAIRE MARKET

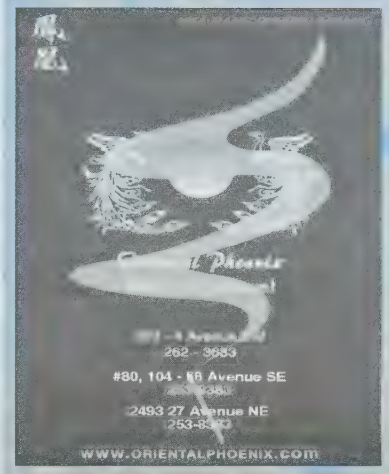
(left) Have We Stumbled Upon a New Disco?
Nope, it's just volunteers from the Eau Claire 'Y' getting everyone stoked to stroll.

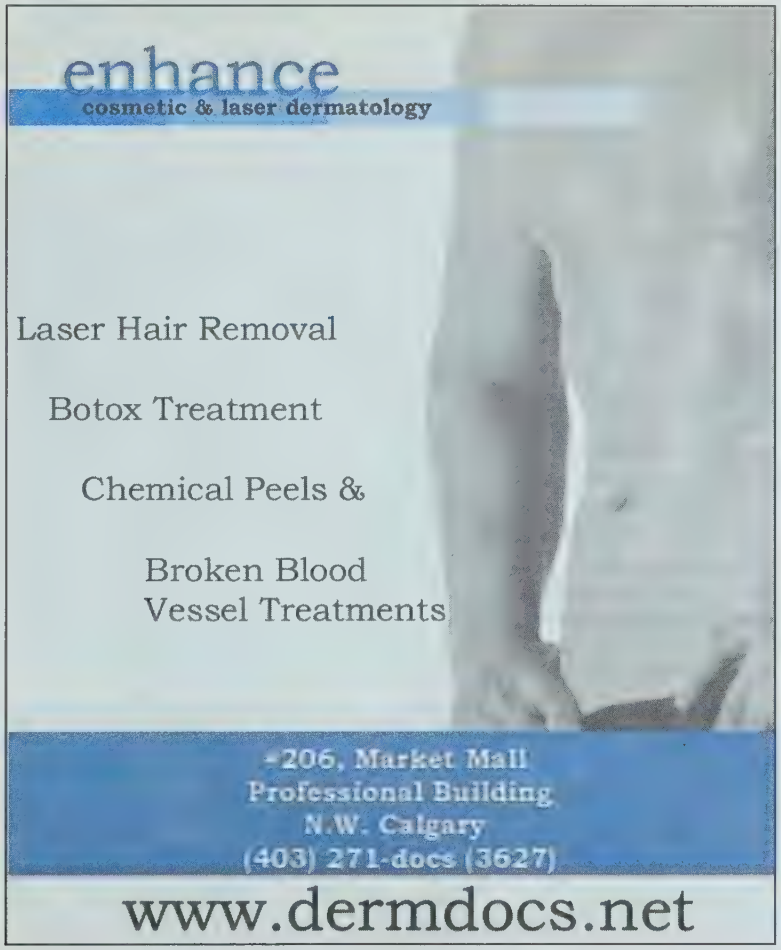
(left) Anchor Away
Global news presenter Nirmala Naidoo addresses the crowd prior to departure.

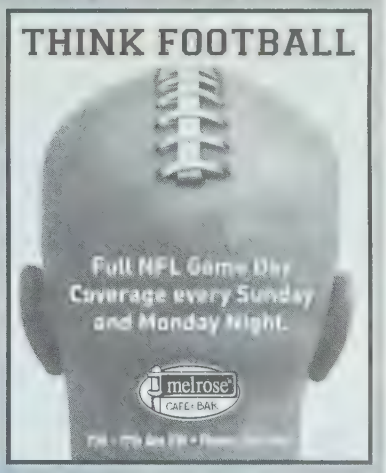
(above) I Think I've Found My New Favourite Colour...
A pair of red—er, *yellow* hot reps for SuperPages, Brett and Tanner, at the AIDS Walk.

(left) Stepping Lively
AIDS Walk 2003 off to a great start under surprisingly sunny skies.

Dining out in Calgary







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Bare facts about naturism

By David King

Somehow, amidst Canada's GLBT social clubs, naturism has found a place beyond destination points like nude beaches and resorts.

On one hand, a nude club is not overwhelmingly different than a gay swim team, religious discussion group or lesbian aerobics class. It's one more social activity within a mosaic of community participation. Yet the idea of joining a nude club is another thing. For many, "gay" and "nude" together immediately implies sex (or, at least, a basic level of voyeurism). It's a stigma that keeps us clothed, and one that nudists say degrades the philosophy behind naturism itself.

Take, for example, Adam et Compagnie in Quebec City: the name itself implies a yearning to return to nature—fig leaf and apple in tow. In Toronto, TNT! Men (Totally Naked Men Enjoying Toronto Nudity) meets throughout the year, and the group was instrumental in helping develop Toronto Island's Hanlan's Point Nude Beach as a recognized tourist destination.

I tell myself all of the above, of course, knowing perfectly well I'm a nude prude, even in front of my friends. Still, the curiosity is there—what goes on at these clubs? And what is the fundamental difference between socializing with your clothes on or off?

My answers come from Edmonton's Buck Naked Boys Club (BNBC), a year 'round group (more 'bare' than 'bear') in one of Canada's chillier cities. The group offered me interview access at their September lodge retreat, on one condition: that I remove my clothes within five minutes of arrival. Gulp!

Fortunately, BNBC arranged a ride for me to the lodge and Fred, the coordinator for the weekend excursion, explained how things work in advance. In summer, the group rents a picturesque lodge an hour outside Edmonton, complete with scenic trails, games, discussions and two residences with outdoor hot tubs. The rest of the year, group members organize house parties and, in Edmonton, the hot tub thing seems to be a ritual. BNBC's website details a wealth of information for me, and before I know it, I agree to the "Naked News" experience.

The fact that I don't know anyone is strangely comforting as I prepare for my day-trip. Stereotype or not, I've never packed *this* light and, admittedly, it's refreshing to pick the birthday suit over say, the Armani one. I do, however, have a slew of absurd thoughts: *What if I get a hard-on? Is this going to be all older men? Are we all really going to eat together naked?* And in my case, *Where the* hell *do I put my microphone?*

Towels, blankets, sarong, walking shoes—check... I'm off.

My ride, Kent, is my first introduction to the group. He at once makes me feel welcome and we have a lot of laughs as we literally head for the hills. For him (and many others I will discover), BNBC is fundamentally a place to socialize and meet new people. There is also a BNBC in Calgary, although I am told both groups are exclusive of one another, and as Calgary's is less active, people come from all over to attend Edmonton's gatherings.

As we arrive at this oasis of a lodge, the absurd thoughts re-surface: *How long will my antiperspirant* really *last? What if I catch a cold? Will I find hair in my salad?* And most importantly, *How will others react to my scrawny body?*

Fred greets me immediately and introduces me to a room holding people of all shapes and sizes. I will soon discover that they come from all over, each with different backgrounds, ages and interests. For now, however, I am an alien—only because I'm still dressed. Suddenly, I am uncomfortable wearing clothes.

Initiating myself, I shed quickly in my room and return to the group. Fred and I sit down (on towels) and discuss things while others buzz around. This group, he stresses, is *not* about sex. In fact, the idea of cruising is mute, simply because those with voyeuristic or other intentions will immediately feel excluded. Although sex isn't entirely taboo (a few couples have even met here), it can't happen to the detriment of the naturist experience and happens no more than with any other social group.

Most importantly, adds Fred, is that naturism provides a freedom from the world's constrictions, and an equality that happens when clothes do not define who we are. Indeed, it is a bare truth—everyone becomes the same, regardless of physicality or "defects". As I venture outside to "hang" with the boys, I try to find a way to explore those very issues.

My first instinct is to get used to my own skin. The lodge is both private and expansive in terms of nature hikes, and so, after meeting everyone, I take a stroll. My tour guide is Liam, a friendly young guy who only recently came out, a topic that re-surfaces often in this group along with past marriages. While BNBC is not exclusively gay, Liam expresses his appreciation for the club's gay component, an atmosphere where he feels safe. This is only his second time here, but he truly appears comfortable.

Returning to the lodge, the barbeque and nasty nude croquet game begins. This, I soon discover, is where gracefully bending over becomes an art form. I still feel a little awkward, but thankfully my eyes are now on the *croquet* balls. There are other activities at BNBC, like Bacci Ball, board games, canoeing and volleyball. In the past, there was even nude trampoline (I'm afraid to ask why it doesn't exist anymore).

The croquet is fierce but a great icebreaker for me, and many of us sit around later in deep discussion, particularly in the hot tub, where I'm able to ask several people at once why they're here. For some, it's an escape from the city. For others, it's family. Yet overwhelmingly, all take comfort in the fact that they don't have to be the gym bunny Adonis in a *Queer As Folk* world. Interestingly, buff boys don't come here often, as many express shyness. All of these men—architects, professors, lecturers, community workers, government employees and others—take great comfort in one another.

As we joke about where in the hot tub I'm hiding my microphone, I have a lingering question: if being naked isn't underneath all this, than why not wear clothes? Not everyone can pinpoint it, but I find one answer when I take a stroll up a hill overlooking the lake on my own. Sitting cross-legged in the wind, I stare out through the trees at the water in complete bliss. For that moment only, I was one with nature—until it got chilly.

After a group photo, dinner and more discussion, I prepare to depart while the others spend their last night at the lodge. Putting my clothes back on suddenly becomes a chore, like layering in winter. Will I come again? Possibly. But next time, it'll be for the croquet.

For more information on the group or to receive announcements about BNBC's activities, e-mail the group at bnbc4@interbaun.com or visit their website at: **http://clubweb.interbaun.com/fdicker/bnbc.htm** ▼

David King is a freelance journalist currently residing in Edmonton. A writer, performer and director, he is the co-founding Artistic Director of Montreal's OUT Productions.

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Colwood, BC V9B-2W9
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It has been over six-and-a-half years since *Outlooks* first hit the streets. In that time, both the publication and its readership have grown and evolved a great deal, but there is always room for expansion and further improvement. To this end, we ask that you take a moment to fill out our Seventh Annual Readers Survey here or online at: www.outlooks.ca so that we may better fulfill *your* needs.

This information is also invaluable when it comes to making the diversity of our community known on both a social and economic level.

Mail completed surveys to:
Box 439, Suite 100, 1039 17th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta, T2T 0B2

OUTLOOKS READERS SURVEY

OR ONLINE AT WWW.OUTLOOKS.CA

PLEASE CIRCLE YOUR ANSWERS

ARE YOU:
Male Female Transgendered

ARE YOU:
Openly gay Semi-closeted Closeted Bisexual Straight

HOW OLD ARE YOU?
15-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 over 55

OCCUPATION:
Professional Service/Retail Unemployed Arts & Culture Self-employed Student Retired

WHAT IS YOUR EDUCATION?:
Junior High School High School College Technical Institute University Graduate Studies Ph.D

INCOME:
under $20,000 $21,000-30,000 $31,000-39,000 $40,000-$59,000 $60,000+

RESIDENCE:
Own Rent Share Sublet Live with parents

LOCATION OF PRIMARY RESIDENCE:
Downtown/Urban Suburban Rural

TYPE OF RESIDENCE:
Condo House Townhouse Other

WHICH AMMENITIES DO YOU FEEL ARE IMPORTANT TO HAVE IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO YOU?
Schools Grocery Store Workplace Coffee Shops Gym/Recreation Gay Village Bars/Nightclubs

WHEN BUYING A DWELLING, DO YOU LOOK FOR:
A new property A pre-owned property A fixer-upper

APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY PEOPLE READ YOUR COPY OF OUTLOOKS?
1 2 3 4 5 More than 5

WHICH OTHER LOCAL PUBLICATIONS DO YOU READ ON A REGULAR BASIS?
Daily tabloid newspaper (ie. *Sun*)
Daily broadsheet newspaper (ie. *Globe&Mail, National Post*)

City Palate	*Where*	*Westender*	*Now*
Xtra!	*Xtra! West*	*Xtra! Capital*	*Vue*
SEE	*Exclaim*	*fab*	*Georgia Straight*
Swerve	*Wayves*	*Perceptions*	

Other _____

WHICH OTHER NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS DO YOU READ ON A REGULAR BASIS?

Advocate	*Out*	*Genre*	*Attitude*
Gay Times	*Details*	*GQ*	*Esquire*
The Face	*Vanity Fair*	*Hero*	*Rolling Stone*
West	*Wallpaper*	*XY*	*US*
Harper's Bazaar	*Vogue*		

Other _____

DO REPRINTS OF APPROPRIATE MAINSTREAM NEWS/CURRENT EVENTS STORIES INTEREST YOU?
Yes No Sometimes

DO YOU, AS A RULE, SUPPORT OUTLOOKS ADVERTISERS?
Always Sometimes Never

HOW OFTEN DO YOU DINE OUT PER WEEK?
Once Twice Three times Four+ Rarely Never

HOW OFTEN DO YOU PURCHASE BIG TICKET ($500+) ITEMS OVER THE COURSE OF A YEAR?
Once Twice Three times Four+ Rarely Never

YOU ARE ATTENDING A SOCIAL FUNCTION AND SHOPPING FOR A NEW SHIRT; WHICH DO YOU FEEL IS AN APPROPRIATE PRICE TO PAY?
$25 $50 $75 $100 $150 $200+

DO YOU WORK OUT? IF SO, HOW OFTEN PER WEEK?
Once Twice Three times Four+ Rarely Never

DO YOU USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PRODUCTS TO AID IN TRAINING?
Vitamins Protein Products Energy Boost Herbal Medicines

HAVE YOU HAD, OR WOULD YOU EVER CONSIDER, ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES?
Liposuction Laser Resurfacing Chemical Peel Laser Eye Surgery Face Lift

WHAT TYPE OF PETS DO YOU OWN?
Cats Dogs Birds Horses None Other (specify): _____

HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO OUT TO NIGHTCLUBS/ BARS PER MONTH?
Once Twice Three times Four+ Rarely Never

DO YOU SOCIALIZE IN CHATROOMS?
Often Sometimes Rarely Never

IF YOU ARE AN INTERNET USER; IS YOUR CONNECTION:
Dial-up Cable DSL

CONTINUED OVER

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

WHEN YOU SELECT A MOVIE OR DVD FOR RENTAL, WHAT AFFECTS YOUR CHOICE THE MOST?

New release GLBT theme Cast
Other (specify):_____

IN TERMS OF TELEVISION CHANNELS, IS YOUR HOME ON:

Tier 1 Cable Tier 2 or higher Cable Digital Cable
Satellite PrideVision TV

HOW OFTEN DO YOU TRAVEL ON BUSINESS IN CANADA IN A YEAR?

Once Twice Three times Four+
Rarely Never

HOW OFTEN DO YOU TRAVEL FOR PLEASURE IN CANADA IN A YEAR?

Once Twice Three times Four+
Rarely Never

HOW OFTEN DO YOU TRAVEL INTERNATIONALLY IN A YEAR?

Once Twice Three times Four+
Rarely Never

WERE YOUR TRAVEL HABITS SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECTED BY THE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001?

Yes No

IF YES, DO YOU FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION MORE ON CANADIAN DESTINATIONS NOW?

Yes No

WHAT TYPE OF TRAVEL ACCOMODATIONS DO YOU PREFER?

Camping Condo Cabin Timeshare RV
Hotel B&B

DO YOU LEASE OR OWN YOUR OWN VEHICLE?

Lease Own No Vehicle

WHEN YOU PURCHASE AN AUTOMOBILE WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT CRITERIA FOR YOUR SELECTION PROCESS?

Manufacturer Model/Style Colour Interior Finish
Fuel Consumption Performance Warranty
Auto Column Articles Friends Advice/Referrals
Gay-friendly Dealership

IN *OUTLOOKS*, I READ:

	Dear Freddy	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Astrology	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Porn Reviews	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Cinematic Reviews	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Book Reviews	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Travel Features	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Youth	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Collective Gaze	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Gay Men in Business	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Issue-related Editorial	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Humour	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Don't You Wish	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Out and Abouts	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Arts	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Poetry	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	In The News	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Living/Decor	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Fashion	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Chelsea Boys	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Outpost: Calgary	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Outpost: Regina	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Outpost: Toronto	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Outpost: Winnipeg	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Outpost: Vancouver	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	CD Reviews	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	TV Reviews	
Always	Sometimes	Never
	Publisher's Column	
Always	Sometimes	Never

LIST THE PRIORITY OF YOUR CONSUMER SPENDING HABITS ON THE FOLLOWING ITEMS, USING A 1-10 SCALE, 10 BEING THE HIGHEST:

___ Clothing
___ Books
___ Films
___ Dining out
___ Travel
___ Art
___ Furnishings
___ Music
___ Computer equipment
___ Prescription Drugs/Medication
___ Stereo equipment
___ Sports equipment
___ Auto accessories
___ Home improvement
___ Pornography
___ Flowers/ Gardening
___ Luxury goods
___ Health food/Supplements
___ Continuing education
___ Electronics (TVs, DVDs)

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN FUTURE ISSUES OF *OUTLOOKS*? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

___ Sports
___ Restaurant Reviews
___ Art Reviews/ Previews
___ Theatre Reviews/ Previews
___ Current Cinema Reviews
___ Financial News
___ Consumer Reports
___ Fiction
___ Cuisine
___ Other_____

WHEN MAKING A PURCHASE FOR GOODS OR SERVICES DO YOU TELL THE SUPPLIER THAT YOU SAW THEIR ADVERTISEMENT IN OUTLOOKS?

Sometimes Always Never

DO YOU FEEL MORE AT HOME IF AN ESTABLISHMENT PROMINENTLY DISPLAYS A RAINBOW FLAG OR STICKER?

Yes No Don't Care

WHICH FINANCIAL INSTITUTION DO YOU USE TO CONDUCT MOST OF YOUR DAY-TO-DAY BANKING?

CIBC RBC (Royal Bank) BMO (Bank of Montreal)
TD/Canada Trust HSBC Other Chartered Bank
Scotia Bank Credit Union Mortgage Specialist
Other (specify):_____

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS DO YOU CURRENTLY USE? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

Stock Brocker Financial Planner Accountant
Buy/Trade Online (self) Other (specify):_____

IN TERMS OF YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY, ARE YOU:

Close Friendly In Contact Estranged

GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEGALLY MARRY, WOULD YOU DO SO?

Yes No

WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO YOUR READING PLEASURE IN *OUTLOOKS*?

Stories Advertisements Classifieds
Cartoons Astrology

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING SPACE FOR WHATEVER COMMENTS, CRITICISMS OR SUGGESTIONS YOU FEEL ARE APPROPRIATE:

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_____
_____
_____
_____
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Send your completed survey with the name and address information at right filled out, and you will be entered in the prize draw. Winner must answer a skill testing question.

Optional (for contest only)
Name:_____
Address:_____
City:_____ Postal code_____

From Shumka to schmooze

By Outlooks Staff

Brad Walker, of Bottom Line Productions

Ah, the life of a publicist—expense-account lunches, A-list air-kisses and a Rolodex that would make God jealous, right? Well, not quite. Try a sandwich on the run, a schedule too tight to even *think* about kisses and numbers jotted hastily on the backs of matchbooks... a dimmer view, perhaps, but likely closer to the truth. Bottom Line Productions' Brad Walker knows this only too well, having worked his way up and in from one side of the curtain to the other. *Outlooks* caught up with the twenty-five-year old master of schmooze, sweat and tears recently as he settled into his new Calgary digs.

Outlooks: After *AbFab* there were certainly a lot of misconceptions about what a publicist is and does, a notion that the job is rather easy and all about glamour. Do you think what you do is easy and glamorous?

Walker: I've never really thought about it as *overly* glamorous; I mean, as with all jobs there are definite perks, but sometimes how it's portrayed in the media or on television shows like *Absolutely Fabulous* is not really how it is. I'd *love* to have long, leisurely lunches and assistants doing all the work while I'm home drinking at noon—that would be great; however, that's not the case! Being a publicist does come with some great opportunities: you get to meet some really amazing individuals, such as celebrities, and get a glimpse into what their lifestyles are like. And I can tell you, *that's* not always as glamorous as people think, either! Over the years I've been doing this, I've met some really amazing people and I've learned a lot from them. Overall, what I do is pretty amazing.

Outlooks: What is your background in terms of experience? What in your life has led you to this point?

Walker: I used to dance with the Ukrainian Shumka dancers: I auditioned for Shumka back in Edmonton when I was fifteen years old and I got accepted—to my surprise and shock. I was in the company for not even a year when they hit the road with a tour and I was able to be on it. Shumka hired Bottom Line Productions to do their publicity and marketing and some of the tour coordination for them, and I met the owner while I was on the road. I was very interested in what she was doing and, after a discussion one night, she said she'd be willing to let me come in and do some work and get some experience as a volunteer. I ended up working quite a bit with her company on a volunteer basis before I applied to the Arts and Cultural Management program at Grant McEwan. I did the program and graduated in 1998, after doing my practicum with Bottom Line Productions. After my program was finished I was hired on as a full-time employee.

Outlooks: And the rest is history?

Walker: No, not quite. I worked there for about three years, after which I left Bottom Line to pursue a career with Alberta Ballet—I managed their office in Edmonton for two years, doing the marketing, special events and corporate sponsorship side of things. Then I left Alberta Ballet and went back to Bottom Line Productions [Laughs] with an opportunity to move to Calgary and expand the operation. So that's how and why I'm here today. I've been working in the industry for five years now, which is actually a long time because there's such high turnover in the arts, particularly in arts management.

Outlooks: Having experienced life on both sides of the curtain now, are you more comfortable behind the scenes or is being in the spotlight your real love?

Walker: To be honest, I'm really more comfortable behind the scenes now. Quite often there are times, like when I'm going to a show I've worked on, I get the feeling I'd like to be onstage again. It's hard to explain the rush you get from being onstage and performing for people—but in reality, I know I would never go back to it. I much prefer helping a production "unfold". Quite often publicists or company managers are referred to as the unsung heroes—I'm quoting Gregory Hines here, an individual I was fortunate enough to meet when he was doing a show that Bottom Line was handling. He was a very generous, wonderful man and he was the first one to say that to me. I don't do this for the glory, obviously, but it's nice when people recognize what you're doing.

Outlooks: Which areas of the arts does Bottom Line cover?

Walker: We definitely cover the for-profit side of entertainment, Broadway shows being our major forté; then we also do a lot in the not-for-profit side of things. So it's an arts and entertainment marketing company. On the arts side we have opera companies, ballet companies, theatre companies. We have also done some for-profit film work, as well as not-for-profit things like film festivals.

Outlooks: Which has been your favourite project to date, looking back on a five-year process?

Walker: I've done a lot of stuff over the years, so it's hard to narrow it down. I'm going to say two, if I could. The first one is *Miss Saigon* which, when it toured in 1998, was one of the first big Broadway shows that I worked on. I had an amazing time doing it and I learned a lot about myself during that show. I also met a lot of amazing individuals who taught me a lot about how to do things and how to develop a work ethic. That was a big turning point for me. The other is Shumka, which hired Bottom Line Productions to do its tour management back in 2000. I was given the contract to be the company manager and I travelled for a year with them on the road. That was also something I considered a major coup for me.

Outlooks: Why do you think there are so many gay men involved in the publicity and marketing industry?

Walker: I've actually thought about that! [Laughs] I have discussed this with other gay friends who work in the industry and we were never able to come up with a final answer. The arts and entertainment industry certainly can pull gay individuals towards it, but I don't know what the specific draw is. Quite often—and I don't want to sound stereotypical here—gay individuals, male or female, are creative, energetic; they present themselves professionally and have a lot of fun doing what they're doing. There are a lot of pros to having individuals like that working in this field. I guess we're just damned good at what we do!

Outlooks: With Hallowe'en on the horizon, I think it might be wise for you to tell me a little bit about the Grave Gala.

Walker: The Grave Gala is going to be an amazing, high-energy, high profile dance party. The word gala can have a lot of negative connotations—we're not having a black-tie, sit-down dinner with seven courses, etc. The point of this event is to dress up and be as wacky and creative as you can. To be as fully clothed or not fully clothed as you want to be. To dance and have a fantastic time. The proceeds will go to two great organizations, Alberta Ballet and Calgary Opera. We wanted to create an event that is geared specifically towards Generation X, to provide them with an annual party that gives them an option other than the bar. We want to make it the premiere Hallowe'en event in the city. It's being held in the Fairmont Palliser Hotel and we have amazing set designers who are creating a set and decorations for it; there will be themed drinks and great prizes in a wide variety of costume categories. We're also going to have three or four DJs playing everything from Latino and hip-hop to dance and disco music. It's going to go from early in the evening 'til early in the morning and we just want people to have a really great time. We are obviously targeting the gay community as one of the party's larger demographics and it's definitely going to be a gay-friendly environment, for sure. I'm really happy to be a part of helping coordinate this event; I think it's going to be really amazing. ▼

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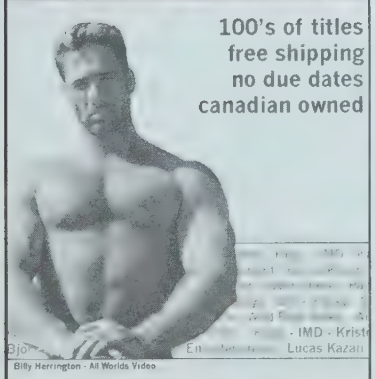

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Grand Reopening Party
SUGAR DADDY'S

(left) Grip 'n' Grin
Angus Praught (right) greets the ubiquitous—and glamouros—Bill Monroe at the big event.

(left) It's Not Just for Daddies, You Know...
Kendra Sprinkling takes in a bit of air on the bar's recently reopened patio space.

(left) I Just Love Flashbulbs!
Numbers manager Jamie—apparently in full-on "vamp" mode for the paparazzi—checks out the "competition".

(above) Altered State
Man-about-town Robert Kaiser, who's rumoured to be quite tight with the lovely and talented Joan-E... anyone smell a scandal?!

Introduction of Mr., Ms and Miss Gay Candidates
DUFFERIN

(left) *My Dress is Way Prettier Than Hers!*
Candidate ruby Stone checks out the room prior to hitting the stage.

(below) Showing 'Em What He's Got
Glenn Anderson gives it his all and 'wows' the crowd.

(right) Duet with Daddy?
Deamonique gets close with Vince Rexx in the spirit of competition.

(right) An Unlikely Three-way!
Mr. Gay candidate Vince Rexx, Miss Gay candidate Jamie Lee Hamilton and Ms Gay candidate Ruby Stone, all set for action.

Amarula Tasting Party
PUMPJACK

(above) Assembly Line
Harvey pours on pleasure in the form of Blow Job shooters, the end result greatly enhanced by the addition of chocolate-rimmed cone cups.

(right) Aaaawwww—Dress Stains Are So *Last* Administration!
The lovely Velvet Steele handles a spilled Blow Job with admirable aplomb.

(right) Congratulations In Order
Jason Day and Tom Peterson, top individual pledgers of the day, take a moment to enjoy the spotlight.

2003 AIDS Walk
STANLEY PARK

(left) Going with the Flow
Tai Chi in the park—the perfect way to prepare for the day.

(above) Ever Notice How "Scrum" Rhymes with "Yum"?
Rough 'n' ready boys with a sense of social responsibility?! Talk about Heaven!

(above) Dog Tired...
VPS Co-chair Shawn Ewing rests up for the journey ahead, her faithful companion standing watch.

Final Cruisey-T Sailing
MV BRITANNIA

(left) Sax on the High Seas
Iain shows he can "blow the man down" with even the best of the seafarers.

(right) Final Glimpse
Enjoying a Vancouver vista one last time as the 2003 season comes to an end.

(below) T for Two
The ever-lovely Mandy Kamp and Robyn Graves, giving it one last go before flu and cold season begins.

(left) Not-So-Local Colour
Mexican entertainers onboard to whip themselves—and the crowd—into a frenzy on the waters around Vancouver.

Planning an event in Vancouver? Contact Barry at (604) 685-1377 and he'll see about covering it in Out & About. Photos By: Barry Piersdorff.

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Bringing *up* the House

By Josh Murray

There are some in Vancouver who would argue that the city's finest real estate has nothing to do with pricey property values and sky-high mortgages. No, more than just a handful of people would tell you quite plainly that The House of Venus is the best property in town. And, if history has shown us anything, they wouldn't be wrong.

Founding member Michael Venus describes the group as a multifunction and dimensional artist collective. "The House does it all," he says, "club nights, fashion, music, film, video, visual and performance art and so on."

Started in 1993, the House began life as a small group in Windsor, Ontario. As Michael himself explains, Venus—as it was originally named—was involved in "throwing club kid parties, putting on flashy fashion shows in Windsor and Detroit and [was] heavily involved in the arts community".

A move to Vancouver in 1995 helped build a solid base of creative partners and exciting platforms. Here, Michael Venus teamed with statuesque beauty Cotton and DJ Dickey Doo and met with substantial success. "The fashion and party scene changed as we started after-hours at The Gin Gallery then the World and made it gay and fun," he says. "[We] started doing club nights at places like Celebrities and Mars and often brought in DJs and drag queens from all over—Naked Music, Girlina, Honey Dijon, Eddie Amador, Derek Carter…"

Venus describes himself as "the fuel behind the movement of love", and he originally set out to provide club-goers with fresh experiences and excitement. The Vancouver scene in 1995 was... well, *dry*, to say the least. The west coast town, oft described as No Fun City, needed the help. By mixing the finest beats with a creative energy few social groups can compete with, The House of Venus name almost always guarantees a fine time.

And the group has built a reputation with that—creating a buzz in Vancouver's nightlife and helping to refresh the city's slumping club scene with fresh, bright ideas. Eight years after their arrival on the west coast shores, The House of Venus stands at the forefront of weekly club successes with Nice at Shine, as well as popular special events like Wiggle. An annual fundraiser for Youthco, Wiggle is one of their most well attended events.

"1,200 attended this year, including Michael Stipe of REM and Debbie Harry of Blondie", Venus says.

Leggy 'n' luscious: House of Venus's own Cotton

The year 2003 has continued to cement the House's importance in Vancouver's club community. "We have been lucky and have a devoted following," admits Venus. The success speaks for itself. Sunday night's Nice at Shine continues to be one of Vancouver's most popular club nights. "Nice is the hottest night in the city ", he says. "The success is due to… two of the hottest DJs: Leanne and Vancouver's very own original Dickey Doo. They both play hot, *hot* house in the front then Dickey turns out the R'n'B and hip-hop beats in da back."

And the crowd Nice attracts is never short of beautiful. "The night is mostly fashionable gay men who obviously bring their glamour girlfriends," Venus explains. "There are also lots of cute, straight guys who know that gay parties are the coolest," he adds.

These diverse party-goers—coupled with Vancouver City Council's more relaxed revisions to antiquated liquor laws—have only helped improve nightlife. And that fact isn't lost on the House.

"I see tons of positive changes within Vancouver," says Venus. "This town has so much talent and is still so new, so virginal." Venus agrees that, perhaps, the city is slowly beginning to change. "The laws are getting better as the city grows," he offers. "There are so many people putting on great fashion shows and parties—it's becoming more and more cosmo every day. It really is the city of the future." Whether this change will stick around, as the fall rains appear, remains to be seen, but The House of Venus isn't boarding up its operations anytime soon.

Cotton and filmmaker Mark Kenneth Woods—who joined the Venus team in 2001—just returned from the 12th Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in Tokyo, Japan. "The Canadian Embassy sponsored the trip", explains Venus, "so the dynamic duo represented Canada as the crime-fighting characters they play in *Johnny Pimp and Honey Ho* on Pridevision."

DJ Dickey Doo is preparing to release his debut album and Venus himself continues to pursue his artistic work. His first solo exhibit appeared last year at the one point six gallery and, recently, a feature aired on *FashionTelevision*.

Live events for the fall again include Sleaze Ball. An annual tradition at Vancouver's historic Penthouse nightclub, the ball is a Hallowe'en oddity of burlesque-themed punk fun.

"The Sleaze Ball [is] a gay, bi, lez and trans punk party that consists of fashion shows, punk bands and male, female and tranny strippers", explains Venus. He also promises "...lots of fetish prizes for best costume" and even a pole dance by Cotton herself.

The best of the House: (clockwise) DJ Dickey Doo, Michael Venus and Mark Kenneth Woods

Hallowe'en or not, Vancouver party-goers, artists and creative energy types can all rest (or party) easy knowing that The House of Venus is continuing to do their work. The collective firmly believes that energies never die. Their events, perhaps better described at times as spectacles, aim to create "as much positive energy through art or celebration" as they can. Whatever its locale, The House of Venus certainly achieves this goal. As October draws to a close, check out the annual Sleaze Ball at The Penthouse. Consider the cover charge your rent for a few short hours in their House and enjoy the show. At least you'll know the landlords are having as much fun as you. ▼

The House of Venus is located online in all its glory at www.venushouse.com

Josh Murray is a Vancouver-based writer, ad exec. and all-around good time. He can be reached at joshjmurray@hotmail.com

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Garnet Rogers and
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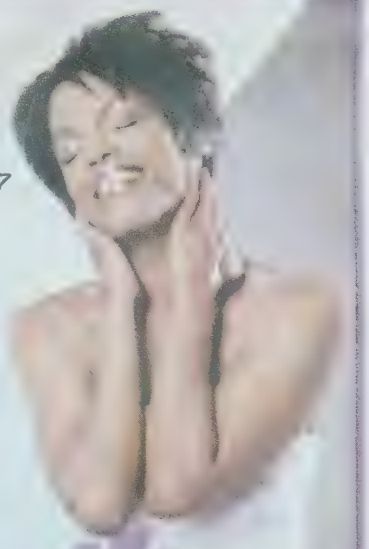
FIRE...where there's smoke • Oct 27
The Wyrd Sisters • Oct 30
David Francey • Nov 1
Les Ballets Jazz
de Montreal • Nov 11 & 12
Michael Kaeshammer • Nov 15
Winter Harp • Dec 12
Nils Ling - The Truth
About Christmas • Dec 19
Martyn Joseph • Jan 20
Decidedly Jazz
Danceworks • Jan 22
Slainte Mhath • Jan 30
Compagnie Marie
Chouinard • Feb 3
Iris DeMent • Feb 11
Ennis Sisters • Feb 18
Harry Manx • Feb 20 & 21
The Arrogant Worms • Mar 6 & 7
brava - Susan Crowe,
Cindy Church and
Laura Smith • Mar 12
Nnenna Freelon • Apr 17



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A study in Studio style

By Rick Matthews

Lighting by Lumos

There are three things you're almost certain to find on a gay man's coffee table: 1) candles, 2) a copy of *Outlooks* and 3) a copy of *House and Home Magazine*. Although stereotypes are never a good thing, they sometimes aren't far off and, let's face it, many gay boys *do* love interior design. For all you wannabe designers out there, your chance to play in the big leagues may have finally arrived.

For an entire weekend in Toronto, October 24 - 26, the public can take in the Home + Style Studio Tour, when the doors to some of the city's hottest design houses and stores fly open. It's the chance to shop until the credit card receipt screams "rejected". What's even better, the event is designed to raise money for Canadian HIV/AIDS research. Spending a bunch of money for a good cause can only be a *good* thing and everyone can use another opinion when it comes to decorating.

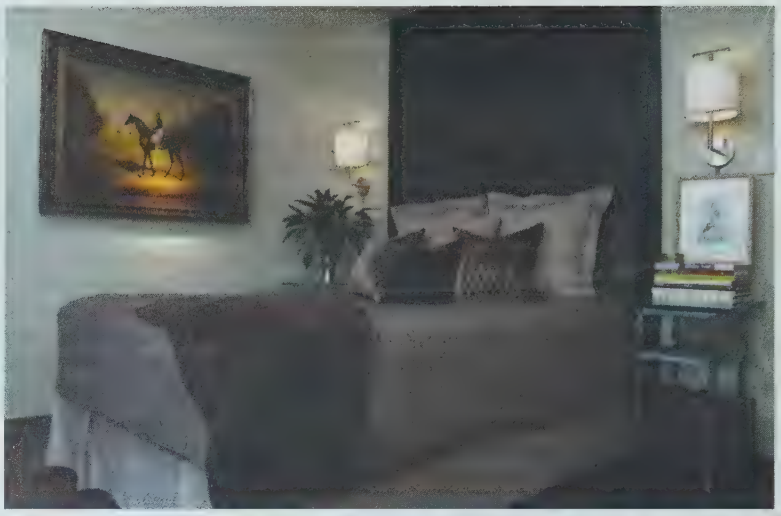
Tour-goers can also learn about fine art, fine cuisine and even environmental fragrances for the home. It's a whole lot of information about how to make your space reflect who you are because, like many things, design is a reflection of a person's unique tastes. What makes the tour unique is that, according to event organizer Jeffrey Stolberg, "...it's really a grassroots and community event, and it allows you the chance to enter some private studios to which you might not normally get access."

Now in its fourth year, the Studio Tour is a chance to see over forty studios, homes, galleries and showrooms of some of the finest artists, designers and home décor professionals in the Big Smoke. After all, Toronto is where some of hottest designers have come to rest (Steven Sabados…need I say more?). The tour is a chance to buy some great furniture pieces, learn about some new hot recipes and hear some of the latest trends in gardening. And who knows, you might even bump into that hottie you spotted at Ikea last weekend, ask him out and test your new knowledge out on him—kind of like a paint swatch—and see if he fits with your space.

If interior design just isn't your thing and you have no idea how to mix that hand-me-down rocking chair from grandma with that black leather ottoman you just bought, don't worry, there's hope—you can take part in Ask a Pro, where you can find a solution to your specific design dilemma (I'd say garage sale the rocker, but that's just me).

A kitchen by Dekla

You can also pay $22 to take part in one of the celebrity special attractions and rub elbows with the likes of Christine Cushing from the Food Network, or Jacqueline Glass and Lynn Spence who often appear on *Cityline*. Jennifer Reynolds, the gardening expert on *House and Home TV*, will also host a special talk and live demonstration. You can find out event details and pre-register for the special attractions on the tour's website.



Shots of 2002 spaces designed by Jeffrey Stolberg. Photos courtesy of Storminthebastille.com

For the more adept armchair designers there is the new addition of a Trade Day, where a wide range of workshops will create a wealth of new project ideas. They are workshops for those in the industry and the public and all you have to do is pre-register online.

"There is one on global trends, another for making a space for art, an introduction to Feng Shui and even a workshop on creating custom carpets," says Stolberg. Workshops are $40 each or $175 for all five. With proceeds going to Canadian Foundations for AIDS Research, it's a great investment.

Another new addition this year is the Class of '03 feature, where the public gets to meet the city's hot new pros of tomorrow—talented graduating students in a variety of fine art and design disciplines. You can bet some industry types will be there to suss out the new competition and see their work. If you decide to take in this special event, you could find a new designer to hire or just learn some new designer jargon to impress your friends.

If hopping from store to a studio and then a home doesn't sound appealing, you can go to the event's silent auction and show your support that way. Admission to showrooms and studio spaces is free, but pay-what-you-can donations are welcome for the cause. If you want to shop like a pro or explore design retailers you might normally overlook, now's your chance. As Stolberg puts it, "there really is something to interest everybody."

The Studio Tour is a fabulous way to spend a brisk fall day, a great cause to support and maybe, just maybe, you'll bump into another gorgeous single man who shares your love of design. That's my plan... but apparently Mr. Sabados is taken—*damn*! To learn more about this event go to **www.studiotouronline.com** or pick up a free copy of the event magazine *FOCALPOINT* at participating locations in the GTA. ▼

Rick Matthews is a freelance journalist based in Toronto. With the aim of taking a true look at the diversity of the gay community he's done work for Fab and appeared as a guest-host on SoGayTV.

A diva for decades

By Gerard MacMullin

Queen for a day? Don't ever underestimate the regal bearing of Mr. Bill Monroe!

It's hard to believe that half a century of Hallowe'ens have come and gone since Vancouver entertainment icon Bill Monroe stepped out in pumps for the first time. Hallowe'en is the only time many men feel comfortable enough to slip into heels and sequins, so it's not surprising that this is the night when many drag divas take their maiden voyage.

"I was uncomfortable until I [started to get] attention from all the men," Monroe recalls of his inaugural venture into the world of drag. "It was three slaps of mascara and a bit of lipstick… not the fabulous paint jobs you have to do today."

Before that historic Hallowe'en ended, young Monroe and a friend—turning heads as Marilyn Monroe and Jane Russell—gained their first experience with the power of illusion. "All of a sudden, instead of being the ditzy faggot and having to worry about having your head kicked in, you were getting r-e-s-p-e-c-t," recalls the "snow-capped" diva.

Perched at a front table in Sugar Daddies on Davie Street, Monroe is still getting that respect. People wave, servers crack jokes, and two men interrupt our chat to pay homage.

"I'm being interviewed by *Outlooks*," Monroe chortles, shooing away the well wishers, "I'm going to be a star!"

"You *are* a star!" the visitor asserts.

"Oh, stop in the name of love!" Monroe almost sings, raising the back of his wrist to his forehead.

He also commands attention.

His most striking feature is a set of piercing, blue-green eyes, more reminiscent of Paul Newman than Harvey Fierstein. His skin exudes a healthy glow, even in the unforgiving daylight. How can skin look *this* good after fifty years of makeup and a thousand late night shows?

"How you look is genetic, but you can maintain a better lifestyle. I think smoking is bad for you. The sun is bad for you," Monroe says seriously, then shifts gears without warning. "I *live* in Oil of Olay. This skin hasn't touched the air in thirty years, maybe forty!"

It's astonishing to consider this man is nearing the age of seventy.

Monroe used to cross the border to perform in segregated black veteran's clubs in the 1950s, and has since done shows across Canada and the U.S., Europe, and Australia. Gay Games founder Tom Waddell called Monroe the best emcee he'd even seen. He appeared at the first games in San Francisco, and the latest in Sydney. In an unforgettable community moment, as his trademark Queen Elizabeth character, Monroe was driven into B.C. Place Stadium to the cheers of thousands at the 1990 Gay Games in Vancouver. He entered the stadium five minutes prior to the opening ceremonies after a controversy erupted over whether a drag queen should be part of the official program.

Monroe has performed lip sync and live vocals, written comedy and created dozens of characters. For a time he even emceed events as a man, but eventually he returned to his roots.

"I wanted to prove to myself that I had the ability to do [it] without hiding behind all of that. I found I was limited in a lot of my humour and I found that the lady… could say a lot more and could flirt with an audience."

He's had a long association with local sports, and recalls a fundraiser for the Shaggy Horse baseball team more than twenty years ago.

"These guys had *never* been in drag—and some of them have never been since," Monro recalls. "We were waiting with makeup artists and hairdressers, and we did this fabulous show that developed into the Miss West End Softball Association [WESA] pageant."

Monroe has also been involved in fundraising for bowling, volleyball and hockey. "Practically every sport in town," he says.

He's the first honourary life member of the Vancouver Men's Chorus. For many years he was best know as emcee for the Starry Night AIDS fundraiser, but that relationship ended due to "creative differences and lack of trust," he reveals.

Monroe still carries a profound sadness for the toll AIDS exacted on Vancouver, but says the epidemic galvanized unity in arts, sports and fundraising.

"You give, you get; it's very gratifying," he stresses. "A lot of us are not in a position to give a lot of money, so if you have a talent [you give it]. Like, Joan-E does a lot of work. All the drag queens do *a lot* of work if they're asked. They never seem to say no. Nobody pays for their dresses. Nobody pays for their makeup or their taxis."

The real payoff is being part of a community, something Monroe feels a lot of people discovered during the AIDS epidemic.

"No matter who you are, I think if you're faced with a fatal illness you certainly don't want to be alone. And if you can get involved with an organization of people and broaden your scope… there's a good chance you *won't* be alone."

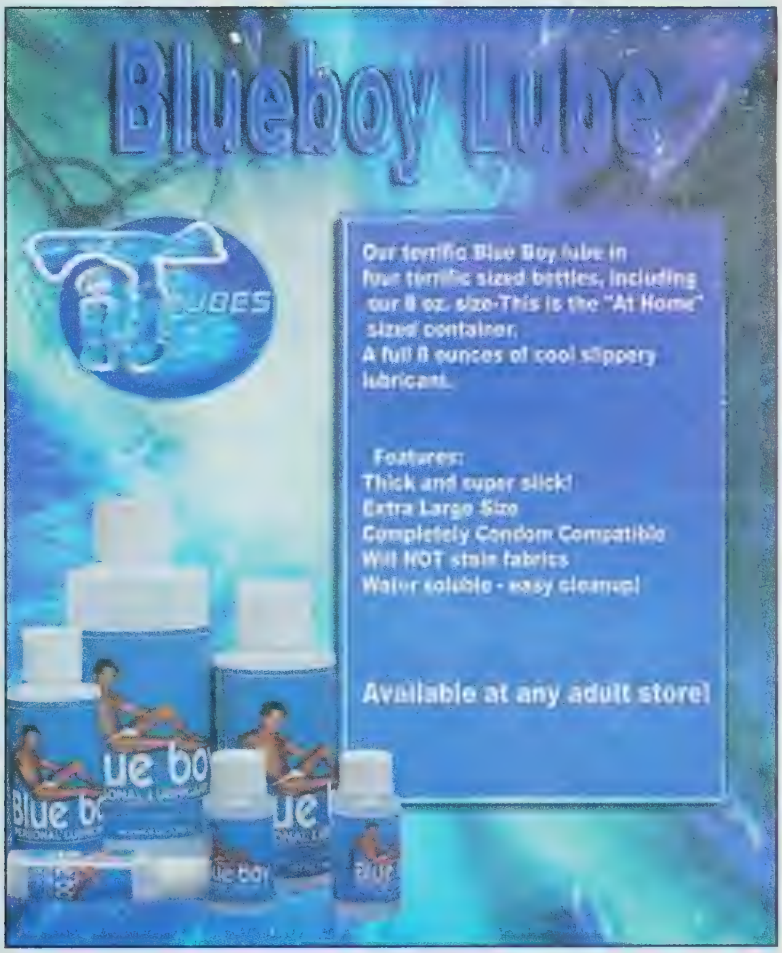
Monroe's life is proof that the philosophy works for him.

"Feel good about yourself, eat well, stay away from drugs, don't smoke and you'll last a lot longer," he says. "Going to the gym in the afternoon and doing Ecstasy all night is not going to keep you young."

Surprisingly, after the years of glamour and glitz, late nights, makeup and costumes, Bill Monroe rejects the notion that, in our world, every day is Hallowe'en.

"It's not all sex and drugs, like *Queer As Folk* seems to love to portray. There's a lot of kindness and a lot of warmth and a lot of sincerity; and a lot of fun and a lot of bitching," he says. "Our community is a microcosm of the world," he adds, "we just dress a little better" ▼

Gerard MacMullin is a writer/broadcaster who lives in Vancouver's West End.



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(left) Debutante
Looking ever-so-luscious, this vision of lovliness is in the running for being a "Zelda protege".

Search for Zelda's Protege
ZELDA S

(left) Shade-y Lady
A "Divine-looking" visitor from Chicago shows us that the U.S.-Canada relations that *really* count are still going strong.

Grapefruit
TEQUILA LOUNGE

(right) Vocal Vixen
Brother Love Canal lead singer Leslea Keurvorst stirs up the crowd in fine form.

(left) Armed and Ready
Outlooks writer/photographer Rick Matthews snags a length of tickets to help support the Zelda's AIDS Walk team. Wait a sec---who the hell's taking the picture?!

(left) Jerking On...
The dancefloor, that is. John (left) and boyf Mark get into the spirit of Brother Love Canal's exceptional performance.

(below) The Final Word in Elegance
Showin' e'm how it's done with big-style glamour at Zelda's

(right) Don't Tell Me We Have To Add Another Letter To GLBT?!
Brother Love Canal's alluringly attired mascot graces the Grapefruit event.

(left) Who Needs F. Scott When You've Got Zelda?
Proprietess of the Village's most colourful cantina puts one of her "lovely assistants:" to work.

(left) Name Game
Let's see—Dirty, Drunk... if we could come up with names for the other two, Snow White might just have herself a whole new set of friends! More fun, too...

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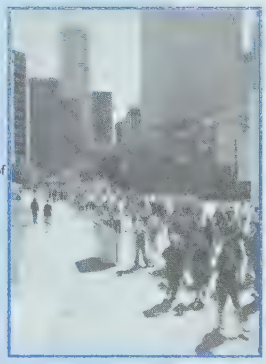
(left) Sign 'o' the Times
Preparing to move forward and make a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



(right)Stepping Lively
Crowds move through the streets of Toronto in aid of a good cause.

(below) Team Spirit
Members of the Polaris HIV Seroconversion Study walk group.

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EDITORIAL

The queens of Queen City

By Jason Fantastic

New York is the Big Apple; L.A. is the City of Angels; Chicago is the Windy City; Las Vegas is Sin City and Toronto, well according to my wee Web search, is Queen City. Hmmm, I've never heard *that* before, but who am I to argue? The name certainly fits. Nowhere else in Canada are fags more chock-a-block than in Toronto. I also discovered during my little nickname investigation that Toronto shares this Royal title with Cincinnati, Denver and Charlotte, which is clearly weird as those are not exactly the queeniest of locales. Oh well, we'll just consider them our budding little sisters and set out to be extra queeny to give them something fabulous to aspire to.

It's a lucky chain of events that led this queen to Queen City; a long story that I won't bore you with. The general gist, though, is: originally from Halifax, I grew tired of picking up people then realizing I had already slept with them, so off I moved to Tokyo, Japan thinking its 17 million population was more of a challenge. Three-and-a-half years later I was on my way back home, clueless as to what to do with my life or where to settle. En route to Halifax from Asia, I stopped over in Toronto to spend a few glamourous days with a friend, Tom, whom I had known in Japan. My visit just happened to coincide with Toronto Pride Week 1999.

I was twenty-six. It was my first Pride. Ever. When I lived in Halifax, I can't recall there even being a Pride. I have heard recently there is a small Pride in Tokyo, although I knew nothing of it when I lived there. When I landed in Toronto, I was a total Pride virgin.

Tom and his friends took me to Church Street and I was blown away. Fags. As far as the eye could see. Fags, fags, fags, fags, fags. It was a fabulous fag blizzard. I had never seen or experienced anything like it in my life. We hung out in the Village, went to parties at Industry, Fly and the Automotive Building at the CNE. We had drinks at the beer gardens and watched the parade. We sauntered through the booths and generally meandered about. I was awestruck by something else I had also never experienced before: community. A *gay* community. I made a decision right then and there (probably aided by numerous pints of beer) that something felt right about Toronto and I decided there was room for one more queen in Queen City. Two months later it became my new home.

I lived the quintessential single life for a while, going out clubbing and dancing shirtless in a sea of half-naked men until the wee hours. I brunched at Slack Alice and Zelda's and met friends for drinks at Byzantium, Wilde Oscar's and Woody's. I had never lived such a gay life. About six months after I moved here I met Stephen, my prince among the queens, and I went from singleton straight (or gaily forward?) into coupledom.

After a couple of years together (if you recall from a previous *Outlooks* article of mine), we decided it was high time to consider buying a fabulous place of our own. It was time to save, save, *save*—a concept I had only previously associated with whales and the rainforest. And so, we moved (insert bone-chilling music here) to The 'Burbs to live with the in-laws.

Blinded by visions of granite counter tops and stainless steel appliances, we really thought it was going to be a breeze living on the edge of civilization. After all, it wasn't *that* far out of the city. Sure, the commute was a bit long at an hour, but we looked at it as an opportunity to listen to new fabulous CDs! And when it wasn't rush hour, it would only take us twenty minutes to get downtown. We could come down anytime we wanted. And just think of the savings! We'd have a penthouse in the sky in no time.

Yeah, and Jeffrey Dahlmer was a vegetarian.

The commute was *never* just an hour. We listened to the same crappy CDs over and over and over. We never hung out with friends after work in order to try and beat the traffic and, on weekends, we were so tired of driving we couldn't stand the thought of being in the car and driving downtown and back again. Plus, unbeknownst to us before, there is an evil Saturday night rush hour, too.

No more going out on Saturday nights. No more brunch with friends. No more after work drinks. No more dinner parties. No more gayness. We lived the straightest life ever—the highlight of my week was browsing at the mall, which would normally be an uber-gay activity, except for the distinct lack of any gay-appropriate shops in the suburbs. There isn't even a Gucci. Finally, after nine long months we said "screw this" and gave birth to our freedom—a nice, healthy bouncing gay lifestyle. We should have handed out cigars.

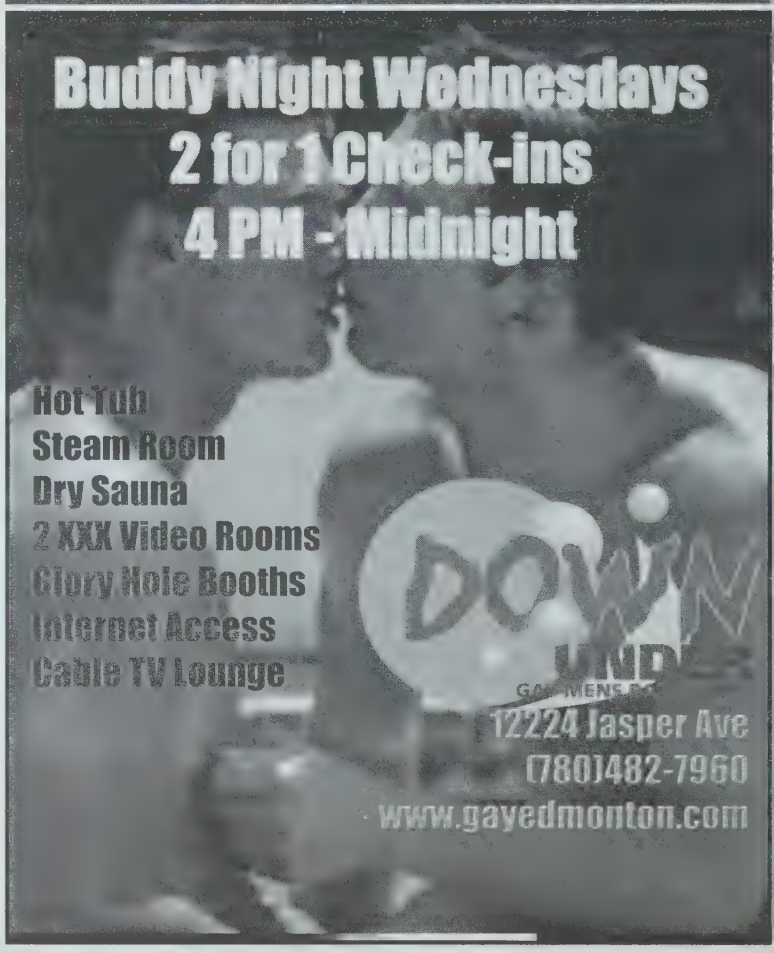
Ah, the life of a downtown gay. Oh how I missed it! Everything is a hop, skip and a jump away (emphasis on the skip). The funny thing is… these days I don't venture to Church Street as often as I used to. It's not for lack of great places to hang out or things to do in the Village, but I think after being away from the city core for a while and then moving back, it was like rediscovering the city all over again.

Never one to define myself solely by my sexual orientation, I decided to see what else the city had to offer. With Queen Street, College West and the Beaches ever booming, plus the newly revamped Distillery District and King West Village growing by the day, I have discovered there's a little bit of gayness wherever you go in Toronto. You can't go far without seeing a familiar gay face or catching a cute boy trying to make eye contact.

Mayor Mel Lastman, usually one to utter absolutely insanely inappropriate comments, was largely right when he called Toronto the greatest city in the world. Believe me, I never thought I would agree. Growing up in Nova Scotia, we loathed those obnoxious Upper Canadians who thought Toronto was the end all and be all. But you know what, it really *is* a world-class city with lots to offer—especially if you're gay (even with West Nile, SARS, Norwalk and days without power... I am *still* waiting for the locusts).

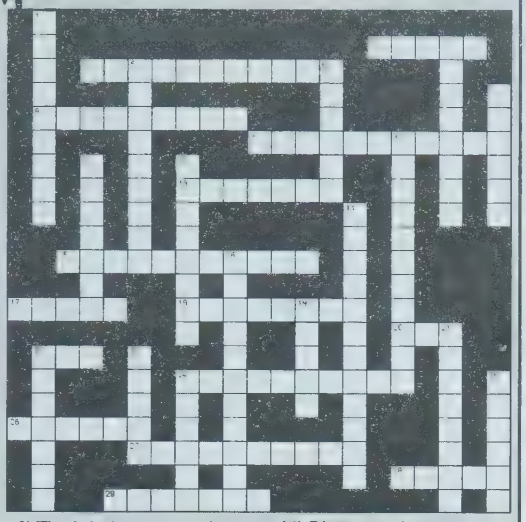
Knowing that Church Street is there whenever I want it makes me feel great. I know that I can walk down at least one street in Toronto hand in hand with my partner with Pride flags flying from every building. It's the center of our community and we Torontonians should appreciate the fact that we do have our own little corner to completely be our true selves—queens in Queen City. ▼

Jason Van Tassel is a Toronto-based freelance web developer and writer with Mouth Media, www.mouthmedia.com.



FEARWORD

clues & words by *Outlooks* staff
answers on page 41



Across

2) Betrothed of Mr. Bateman, wed in Vancouver
4) This Vancouver restaurant/bar recently reopened
8) Material seen on cover model's head
9) 19-year-old gay marriage crusader in Winnipeg
13) The "Valley of the Sun" is found in this U.S. state
15) Upcoming fetish function in Calgary
17) Recently deceased *Will & Grace* actor: Gregory _____
18) Organizer of Toronto's Studio Tour: Jeffrey _____
20) By way of something or Canadian rail carrier
22) Animal mascot/motif of Small Change...Big Changes
24) House of Venus' upcoming Hallowe'en event
26) Winnipegger Denis Blais' alter-ego
27) A&E PR company for which Brad Walker works
28) Toronto restaurateur known for "her" wild fashion sense
29) Same-sex lobby group: _____ of Gay & Lesbian Marriage

Down

1) They played "Grapefruit" in TO: Brother _____ _____
3) This L.A. director now living in Winnipeg: David _____
5) Chelsea Boy Sky just got a dose of this
6) Dance troupe to which Brad Walker belonged
7) Divas both, Marilyn and Bill
10) Rapid Heart Pictures' debut release
11) The *Queer Eye* crew is casually known as this
12) Being nude's not nudism, it's this
14) Reviewed porn features this hooded villain
16) Film series about a fraternity of vampires
19) This former sitcom star just got her own talk show
21) This "fundraiser of the feet" took place Sept. 21
22) Phoenix area leather/uniform bar
23) Dearly departed lover in *Echoes*
24) Don't You Wish? reaper's sharp accessory
25) Small Change...Big Changes Co-founder: Sherrie _____

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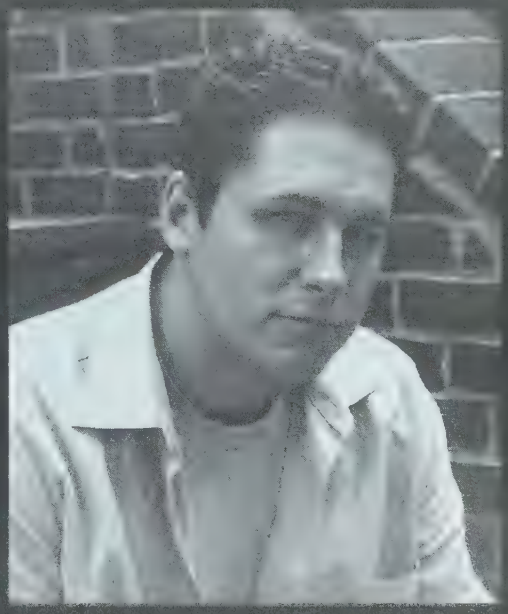

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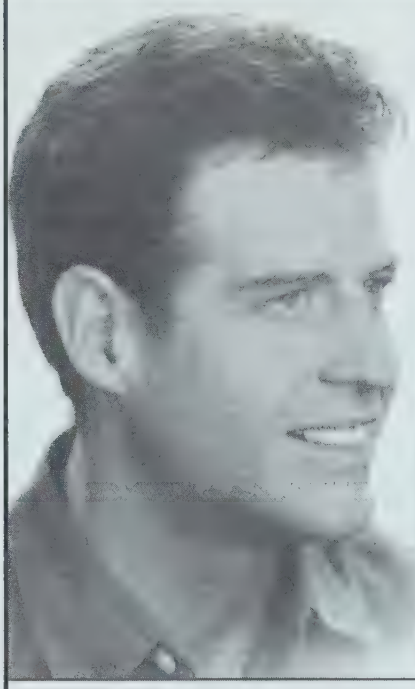

You know, I tried everything under the sun to stop my hair loss and eventually resorted to wearing hats all the time. Now, I m a pretty out-going type of person, but losing my hair did bother me, deep down inside.

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Friends who knew me, believe it or not, couldn t figure out why I looked so good. One guy asked me if I was working out! I got compliments all night long. I just wish I did it sooner.

BEFORE

Dennis Hopkins

30 years doing it right

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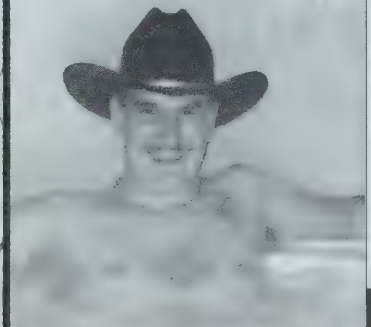

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We don't need the Fab 5 to rummage through our closet this National Coming Out month. We can do very well on our own, thank you very much. There will be some golden opportunities to make necessary changes, especially as Neptune redirects on the 23rd and rowdy Mars will oppose gigantic Jupiter through the month. Don't be a shrinking violet—it is time to blossom and bloom.

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

You will be outed at work this October—and good thing, too! As pushy Mars pokes Jupiter, gay Rams will no longer be able to contain their pride. Even small actions can result in immense and lucky changes, so don't hold back. At the same time, Neptune will redirect on the 23rd and encourage pals to provide a pillar of strength to your efforts. Well it's a pillar of something anyway...

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Queer Bulls will be on a rampage this October as unstoppable energy cascades from all corners. Don't try to stop the leakage. Mars opposite Jupiter will be a welcome rush of power that will shorten the term of your long-term goals in fun and creative ways. Meanwhile, Neptune will redirect and eject your professional prospects into the stratosphere. Will it travel on its back?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Instead of sitting at home and contemplating your navel, pink Twins would be well advised to apply themselves to their career goals this October. Set your best professional plans in motion and push them along, if necessary. You'll hide in the shadows no longer dreaming about "What if". Do the ends justify the means? By all means! And you know just what I mean.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Communication will hit a high note this October as pushy Mars will oppose expansive Jupiter and hand you a megaphone. Speak Out loud, proud and queer, pink Crab. Make waves and push some needed reforms forward. Many people need a piece of your mind and, thankfully, you'll have some to spare. Neptune sez don't be tied down (unless that is your thing).

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Hot and sexy gay Lions will receive a welcome jolt from Mars and Jupiter this October. Don't waste this sizzling energy on the undeserving many. Lavish it—several times—on the very deserving few. It's National Coming Out month, babe, so trash your "straight" jacket and become a proud, royal, randy beast. Grrr. Do you have a tiger in your tank? I'll never tell!

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

This National Coming Out month will hearken to a time when you have to make a few decisions for yourself. Queer Virgos will find themselves at a crossroads where what they want out of life may conflict with certain relationships. Partners will try to push their agendas as Mars and Jupiter create a push me/pull you scenario. Hmmm, maybe that *isn't* such a bad idea, after all...

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Diligent (ha!) pink Libras will seem to be hard at work this October, but let's take a closer look: beneath that serious exterior is a Wilde spirit aching to break free. Don't let an ever-increasing pile of obligations weigh you down; there are planets that will inspire you and those that can lead you into wasteful, dissipated pastimes. Just follow your planetary leader, sweetheart!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Look to friends for inspiration and jubilation this October, gay Scorp. Rowdy Mars will oppose jolly Jupiter and increase your fun times without decreasing your energy. Hey, how great is *that*? But all play and no work may become pretty boring after a while. Neptune will redirect on the 23rd and will strongly suggest that you attend to home-related issues. Is that molding or just mold?

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Proud Archers are not the stay-at-home types and yet there may be times this October when you will be quite content to lounge around the house in your pajamas. Maybe that's because so much will be happening in your career that the last refuge from all the madness will be your sofa and TV. Mars, Jupiter and Neptune will conspire to put your talents to the test. So, just how talented are you...?

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Political gay Caps will be able to make some meaningful gains in their personal plans during the fabulous National Coming Out month festivities. This will be the time to get involved in the flow of events and make your mark on the world. You'll shimmer and shine. Mars, Jupiter and Neptune will have a great deal to say and you'll be the messenger with the message. Make it in "all-caps".

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

They say money talks but *I* think it whispers seductively. You tell me, Aqueerian, when Mars will oppose Jupiter this National Coming Out month. Suddenly you'll see that there are certain wheels that need greasing and you happen to have ample grease. Ah, but can money buy true love? Neptune will redirect on the 23rd and take off your rose-coloured glasses. Put 'em back on!

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

You will be a spitfire this October, Guppie. What a change of pace! There will be a gathering of planetary forces that will propel you into new adventures and spicy new beginnings. You will not have to navigate the cosmos alone, compadre, when Neptune redirects on the 23rd. It is time to come on Out and see what magic you and a certain special someone can conjure. Hey, is that a magic wand?

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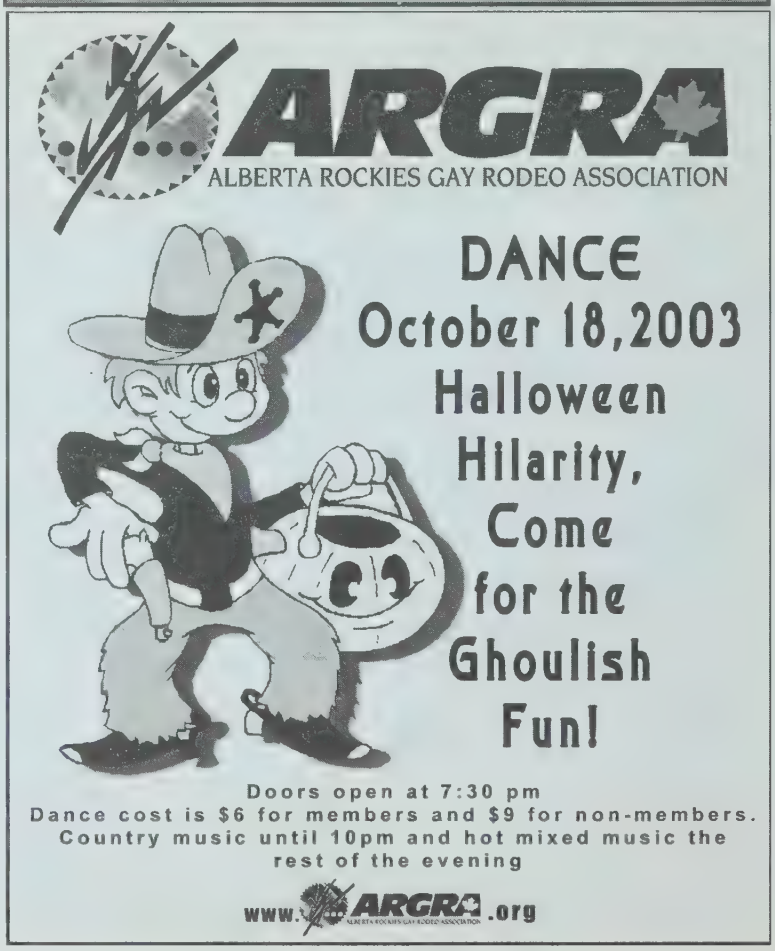

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The Valley of the Sun

By Ashley Anderson

Is that a saguaro in your pocket?

As much as fall and winter in Canada can potentially be a beautiful time of skiing snow-capped mountains and hot chocolate by the fire, right about now many gay and lesbian travellers start to look longingly at the map to find somewhere to escape. Not as popular (yet) as the resorts of Mexico, the Phoenix area boasts many attractive qualities, including a climate that makes it soothingly warm in the winter months to downright steamy in the summer. Cowboys, bears, circuit boys, average Joes and Janes, and even spiritual types can all find a niche here, as accommodations and attractions for every budget are plentiful.

Phoenix is in the depths of "The Valley of the Sun", where the sun shines ninety-nine percent of the year, and even in the coldest months the average temperature is close to twenty degrees. There's plenty to do and plenty of places where you'll feel at home in Phoenix. A car is a must when visiting the Valley, with a population of more than 2.5 million spread out in a suburban sprawl that rivals larger U.S. cities.

In the heart of Phoenix, there are four neighbourhoods in which you'll find most of the boys who like boys and girls who like girls. These historic areas (Encanto, Palm Croft, Willow, and F.Q. Story/Fairview) sit slightly north of downtown and are between Seventh Avenue and Seventh Street—talk about lucky numbers! Close to these areas to the north and east, you will find an abundance of bars—everything from country-and-western to discos, leather and piano bars.

Having recently lodged at the gorgeous Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, I can wholeheartedly endorse it as a true escape from reality. The slate lobby, abundant fountains, lush green grounds and gorgeous pools make this recently expanded and renovated resort a true haven for those seeking to hide from the snow. A very friendly staff (a good many of whom are "on the team", it seems) is there to cater to your every whim. The nicely appointed rooms are generally located in "villas" surrounding the thirty-nine acre estate and are located around private pools. The main pool area is where the spa and fitness facility is located. The spa is gorgeous and offers every treatment you could want to pamper yourself, and the fitness facility is well appointed and offers free weights, machines and cardio equipment. An award-winning golf course is also available for those who like to duff their balls on occasion (**www.arizonabiltmore.com** or 1-800-950-0086).

If you prefer your balls in the buff, the Arizona Sunburst Inn is an option for you. Rarely can you enjoy nature *au naturel* in the winter, but at this six-room, clothing-optional men's resort you can feel free to do so at any time of the year. A sparkling pool and hot tub, friendly hosts and continental breakfasts make this guesthouse a great home base. The budget price tag is attractive as well. Click on **http://members.aol.com/sunbrstinn** or call 1-800-974-1474 to reserve a spot to sun your buns. Another private walled men's resort to check out is the Arizona Royal Villa Apartments. Downtown and centrally located to most of the gay bars in the city, this clean complex offers a good, affordable stay and a warm welcome for the Canadian gay visitors to Phoenix (visit them online first at **www.royalvilla.com** or call 1-888-266-6884).

For the women heading to the Valley of the Sun, Susa's Women's B&B Ranch is a good option to check out. About thirty minutes from downtown Phoenix in the suburb of Apache Junction, this women's resort offers a jacuzzi overlooking gorgeous desert vistas, clean and well-appointed rooms, a common exercise/game room and a TV room. Susa's also offers seminar or meditation rooms available for corporate and individual sessions, and horse rentals and stabling. They're located on the Web at **www.susasranch.com** and you can call them at (480) 288-9333.

The grounds of the Arizona Biltmore

Phoenix offers a number of year 'round attractions for the leisure-seeking traveller. Pack your clubs, as there are several golf courses that are open all year, and for the true pro-wannabe, the John Jacobs Golf School has courses available in several locations in Arizona (**www.jacobsgolf.com**). Rawhide Wild West Town is also a great stop to spend the day in the sun with some authentic western atmosphere. Rawhide is also the location for one of the biggest gay rodeos to take place every January, the Road Runner Regional Rodeo (**www.agra-phx.com**). Hundreds of competitors and thousands of spectators kick up their heels and enjoy a much-needed break from winter every year at this IGRA event. Culture vultures may also enjoy a production at the Black Box Theatre or a visit to the Heard Museum. Old Town Scottsdale is also worth a visit, with many artisan shops and interesting Arizona merchants to visit. Close by are standards like Crate and Barrel, Restoration Hardware and Williams Sonoma for the homebody. While you're there, pop in and have a nosh at Frank & Lupe's Old Mexico Café and Specialty Tequilla Bar (4121 N. Marshall Way). Mmm, lunch and a shot!

There are several hot nightspots for the jet-setting homo to check out once the sun goes down. Amsterdam (718 N Central Ave, or **www.amsterdambar.com**) is a trendy watering hole that attracts a wide range of people. A mix of men and women frequent this bar, and you might even see the occasional straight person (gasp!) who has discovered what a great spot this is. It's a nice venue with exposed brick walls, a well-stocked bar, goodlooking staff and an atmosphere that allows you talk to your companions without having to yell. Highly recommended as a start to your night.

A visit to Phoenix wouldn't be complete without a stop into Charlie's (727 W. Camelback Rd), one of the cornerstones of Phoenix nightlife. Cowboy bar by night, dance club by *late* night, the rhinestone cowboy boot disco balls spin over some good times. Dancing is not out of the question, and there is even an outdoor beach volleyball court set up at the back of the bar (this *is* the desert, remember?). This place is so much fun and so friendly, it's a must-see for any visitor.

The Cash Inn (2140 E. McDowell Rd) is a smaller bar and attracts mostly women, but is a great place for men and women to go to together. The dancefloor is surrounded by tables and line dancing seems to be popular here, offering hours of entertainment.

If daddies and bears are more your speed, then the Padlock (998 E. Indian School, **www.padlockaz.com**) is the place that promises leather and men. Period. Dark and slightly seedy, it's a good place to check out Bare Chest Friday or Fetish Wednesday fun.

Pookie's Café is a restaurant and a bar all in one. Serving inexpensive fare like burgers, fries, soups and salads, along with beers and martinis, Pookie's is Phoenix's *only* exclu-

continued opposite

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I'm here and I will stand by you,
On each hill you have to climb;
So take my hand, let's face the world...
And live just one day at a time.

You're not alone, for I'm still here,
I'll go that extra mile;
And when your grief is easier,
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Douglas E.R. Norman
May 9, 1980 -
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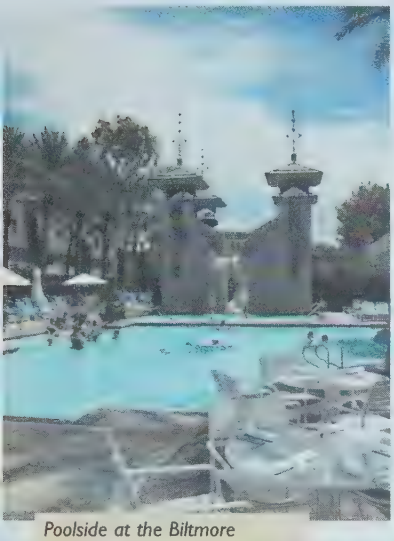
from previous

sively gay restaurant that spices up the food with shows and karaoke (4540 N. 7th St., **www.pookiescafe.com**).

In the mood for a little desert dessert? The steam is *hot* at the Flex Complex (1517 S. Black Canyon Highway, **www.flexbaths.com**). A full bar, as well as a gym and massage services are only *part* of the amenities here, as are some of Phoenix's horniest men—always a plus if you're so inclined!



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The desert beauty, welcoming climate and friendly locals make Phoenix a little slice of heaven for gay travellers that you will want to return to many times if you're looking to escape from winter. Or even if you're not! ▼

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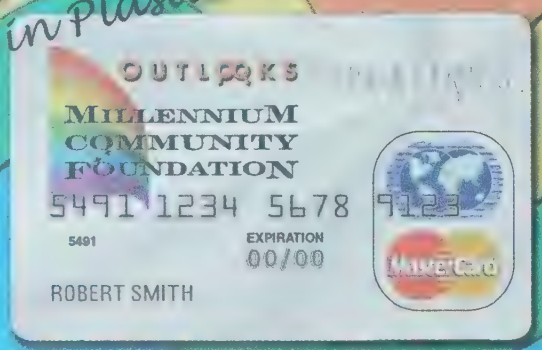

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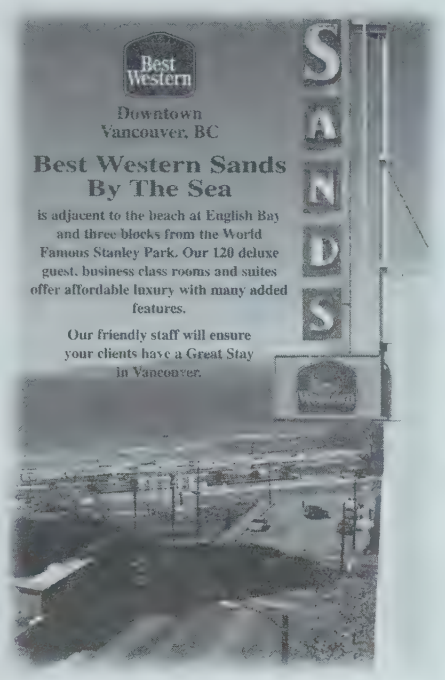

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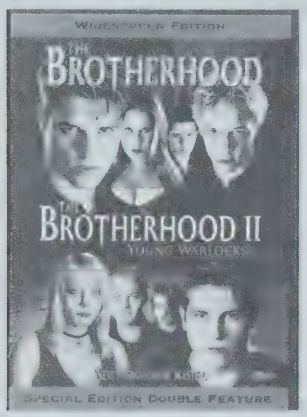
Film

By Dale Smith



Directed by: David DeCoteau
From: Rapid Heart Pictures
Running Time: 85 minutes
Release Date: 2000

Dark, sexy movies where toned, muscular boys find *any* excuse to strip down to their boxers for whatever occultish rituals that may come along—where their pure, innocent souls are at risk by dark forces: welcome to the world of David DeCoteau. No movie better illustrates this in its full homoerotic glory than the first installment in the film series *The Brotherhood*.

On a beautiful college campus at night, a cute boy runs from a frat house before being accosted by four figures. The next morning, his death is reported on the news, while newly arrived freshman Dan (Josh Hammond) meets his new roommate Chris (Nathan Watkins). Though the pair are somewhat opposite—Chris being a swim team champion and Dan a self-described geek—they hit it off well enough and lament their mutual "loser" status. The next day, a shirtless Chris is out jogging when he is eyed by Devon (Bradley Stryker), leader of the elusive and exclusive Doma Tau Omega fraternity. Devon declares that Chris is beautiful, and chooses him to be "The One".

Later in the day, Devon meets Chris after the newcomer takes a spill on his bike while eying a cute girl. The meeting is coloured by Chris' suspicions of fraternities, and his obvious admiration of Devon's status. A short while later, Chris meets Dan outside for lunch, when he spies the same girl again being accosted by frat-boy thugs. He chases them off, and the girl, Megan (Elizabeth Bruderman), invites him and Dan to join her at a Doma Tau Omega party that night, to which she has an invitation.

As Chris and Dan get ready for the party, Chris explains his past and his rejection of partying and popularity. Dan feels envious that Chris could have everything he never had, but refuses to grab it. There is a definite sense of homo-social bonding in the scene and, at one point, Dan even jokes that the two could be mistaken for a couple, especially as they adjust each other's ties.

Chris, Dan and Megan arrive at the party together, and right away Chris and Devon lock eyes from across the room. The seduction begins. Devon tempts teetotaler Chris with absinthe, and when Chris is a little drunk, Devon extends an invitation to join the fraternity. They then seal the agreement with a blood pact. Dan and Megan, meanwhile, head to find coffee, and though Dan denies his jealousy, methinks "the lady doth protest too much"!

Chris finds himself being drawn further into Devon's plans, and learns of the blood rites in a dark, sexy scene where the two strip to their boxers for a feeding on the blood of a girl from the party. Soon, it is up to Dan to save his friend from Devon.

Homoerotic horrormaster David DeCoteau has created a film in which, though a bit "B-movie", the visual splendour is enough to keep one's rapt attention. From the beautiful location and the beautiful boys, to the gorgeous cinematography, the film is a visual feast. As well, the film is quite erotically charged, though none of the characters claims to be gay. From the relationships, the clothes, the fact that any scene remotely sexual has both Chris and Devon interacting with each other instead and the camera angles when Devon has Chris feed for the first time—it all reads pretty gay. *The Brotherhood* is a fun movie to watch, and one which I will continue to enjoy when I'm in the mood for a little eye candy.

Best (and Sexiest) Scene:

Having fed on the girl, Chris lays back on the bed, his head hanging over the edge, a trickle of blood escaping his lips. Devon climbs on top of him.

Devon: How do you feel?

Chris: I feel...alive.

Devon take's Chris' head in his hand, wipes the trickle of blood and tastes it.

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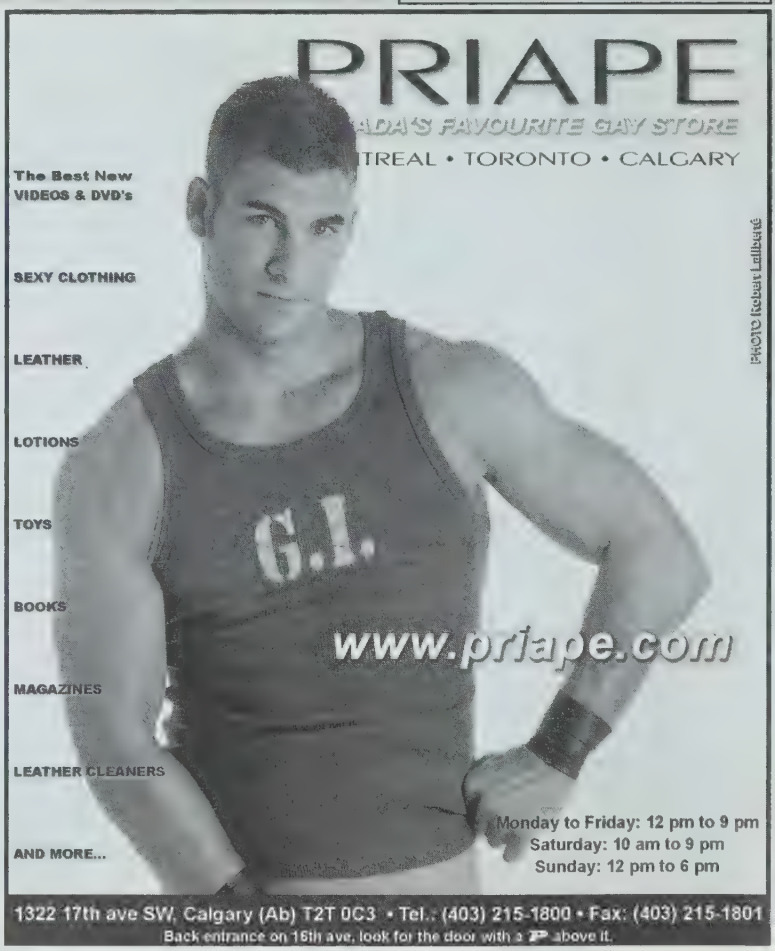
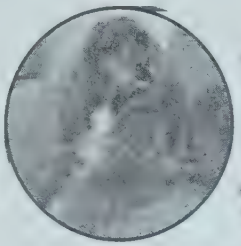


Dear Freddy



Dear Freddy,

I just started school (U of T) awhile ago and moved into rez because I thought that, coming from Edmonton, it would be easier for me. I'm still in the closet for now because I don't know how people will react—but there's a problem. I see this guy that I recognize from home around campus; he's really queeny and I think he recognizes me, too. What am I supposed to do if he waves at me or tries to say hello when I'm with other rez guys or straight classmates? I'm panicking!

T-Boy

Dear T-Boy,

Calm down, dear; it's only life—OK? What do you mean this person "tries to say hello"? Has he got a speech impediment? Was he born without a mouth and looks like an old Fisher-Price figure? My suggestion would be, if the poor bugger actually does manage a 'hello', that you say the same thing back to him. After all, T-Boy, he's another gay person, *not a leper*. I think the real issue here is your own homophobia—I'm not saying that you should become palsie-walsie with your hometown nancy-boy, but if you're wanting to look straight the best thing to do is to appear comfortable with "your" sexuality.

The bigger problem here is that you are not comfortable enough with *yourself* to *be* yourself. And that's a fine—being a "rezbian" is a tough go if you want to fit in. However, if you keep up this straight front for too long you're bound to be miserable and get caught in lies. Ever think about finding a place off-campus? Joining the uni's homo club? It's certainly going to be better in the long run than scratching your nether parts and bragging about how much puss you got after a "kegger". I really don't see what the big deal is with being gay in university, anyway—all the movies *I've* seen about campus life involve naughty fraternities, hot shower sessions with the varsity football team and hunky law students selling their bodies to pay for tuition. Perhaps you've just chosen the wrong school...

Hugs,

Fred

Dear Freddy,

I have a drinking problem. Maybe a big one. Lately, after I've been out, I've been blacking out details of the night before. I'm always hung over and it's taking more and more booze to "get me going" these days. The thing is, people tell me I'm the life of the party and nobody wants to hang out with me in "dry" situations. Do you think I should just ditch for awhile or do I need some outside help?

D.C.

Calgary

Dear D.C.

The problem with being the "life of the party" is that it can mean the "death of you". I don't necessarily mean that in the literal sense—although it *can* happen—but you run the risk of becoming a social sideshow, someone people invite out or keep around for comic relief. And, truly, if they'd rather only see you when they can add a few ounces and watch you go, then they really aren't friends now, are they?

I think perhaps the first order of business is to try hanging out with yourself in dry situations—go for walks, take a bike ride, check out a movie; that sort of thing. What you need is a little quiet time to reflect and see what's bothering you enough to make you drink excessively. After awhile, you might find that some of your compadres actually *are* friends, and will miss you for *you*. If not, screw 'em—like I said before, if they look at you as their wind-up drunk, you don't need them. And, if you find that you can't stay away from the sauce outside of your social scene, then perhaps you should seek some counselling. It might be tough in the short term, but it's a helluva lot better than vomiting outside the comfort of your own home, falling down on dirty carpets/streets and turning your stomach into a colander with too many doses of ibuprofen, isn't it?

Good luck,

Freddy

Write to me, Dears!

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Running Time: 80 minutes

Each year, thousands of young men take a pledge to dedicate themselves to fraternities for the rest of their lives. They have to go through an initiation process that tests their limits and assures their fellow frat brothers that they can be counted on under any circumstances. The process is honourable and very serious—but in this movie, we discover what happens when a sexual predator interferes with this rite of passage for selfish reasons. Thirteen hot and innocent young jocks will do anything to join the Alpha Beta Lambda Fraternity and they find themselves completely in the hands of the fake pledge master.

At the frat house, plans are being made for the initiation of young pledges and their special instructions are being placed into envelopes before being handed out. Unknown to the organizers of the weekend activities, a fake pledge master substitutes his own instructions in the envelopes and directs the young virgin jocks to his personal hideaway for initiation ceremonies of a very different kind. The real frat brothers are completely unaware that the hazing process has been changed and now it will be a sexual charade organized by an impostor with bondage, pain and pleasure as the main activities.

One by one, the young frat boys follow their instructions to go to 935 W. Main St. and do completely as they are told by the hooded pledge master. Without exception, this involves a series of blindfolds and hands tied behind backs while the pledge master has his way—without a word of protest from the pledges. Fresh young bodies submit to the sexual acts in fear of not being allowed into the fraternity. For some, it is a mixture of pain and pleasure; for others, it is an unavoidable matter of horror and shame. For the pledge master, the initiation is a smorgasbord of smooth, toned young flesh, ripe for the taking. These horny young jocks respond to his touch and their lack of resistance allows his sucking and stroking to produce the desired results. One after another, the freshmen submit to a string of sexual abuses, all in the name of fraternity.

However, Kal Elton, a young Bulgarian foreign exchange student, discovers something is wrong when he performs his sexual acts perfectly but is not admitted to the fraternity. He challenges the real pledge master and discovers that there has been a switch from the actual initiation. Kal goes to report the matter to Officer Hinckley of the local police. It's hard to explain the whole process but Officer Hinckley promises to investigate with perhaps a little too much enthusiasm. Has a crime even been committed? Will he get to the bottom of it? Only the pledge master knows for sure…

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RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★ *SET:* ★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★ *STORY:* ★★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

Echoes

From: Mile High Video

Featuring: Tony Donovan, Nick Yeager, Dylan Reece, Nino Bacci, Blake Harper, Clint Cooper, Chad Johnson, Dean Phoenix, Jeremy Tucker, Patrick Allen, Max Grand, Kyle Bradford, Tuck Johnson, Dillon Pierce, Nick Young, Spike, Casey Williams, Matthew Hunter, Michael Lance, Sharon Kane

Running Time: 140 minutes

Memories of a former lover can sometimes be haunting. For Tony Donovan, the loss of his lover Jakob is almost unbearable and causes him to have a series of nightmares. When they were together, Tony thought life was perfect and the sex was incredible. When we see Tony's first dream, it's easy to understand why this horse-hung stud had found his perfect mate in Jakob—they were *made* for each other. When they split, Tony couldn't understand why Jakob left him and then, shortly afterwards, Jakob was killed in a car crash. This sequence of events destroyed Tony's emotions and he felt that life was no longer worth living.

Moping around the house, Tony just can't forget his late lover and his dreams about Jakob won't stop. On a Friday night, Tony's friend Paul phones to invite him to a party at their mutual friend Sheila's place. At first Tony refuses, but eventually shows up at the party to everyone's surprise. All the guests have had a lot to drink but Tony is sober and decides to allow Sheila to hypnotize him in hopes she can put an end to his bad dreams. He is a good subject and easily falls under Sheila's power of suggestion; however, what follows is not what Tony hoped for.

Now Tony's dreams are even *more* real and he finds himself in a series of sexual encounters, all of which seem to involve Jakob. First, Tony's at the gym and all the other men begin to remove their clothes for a workout that he has to watch. Half a dozen hung studs—including Spike—perform for Tony's enjoyment, but at the climax he finds that Jakob is in the centre of the action.

Next, when he heads to the showers, Tony's privacy is interrupted by three hockey players in full uniform, just off the ice. As they undress him and discover his big stick, it takes all three sets of hands to satisfy his needs. But, as they undress, it shocks Tony when Jakob turns out to be one of the athletes.

As the dreams continue, Tony's friends try to explain how Jakob wasn't exactly loyal to him and enjoyed orgies when he wasn't around. Paul is trying to help with Tony's grief but it seems as though nothing can console him or convince him of the truth. The dreams proceed and the history of Jakob's double life and affairs slowly unfolds. Each dream is another sexual escape and Tony always comes out on top with his huge endowment. The surprise ending changes Tony's life and finally he has a new reason to live, as well as a way to satisfy his yearning for the perfect mate—all thanks to the absent Jakob.

Review sponsored by Rainbow Pride Resource Centre,
2nd Floor, 1229 16 Avenue S.W. Calgary
Ph: (403) 266-5685

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★ *SET:* ★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★(★) *STORY:* ★★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★

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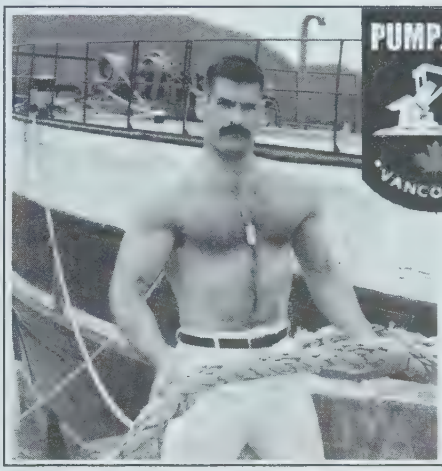

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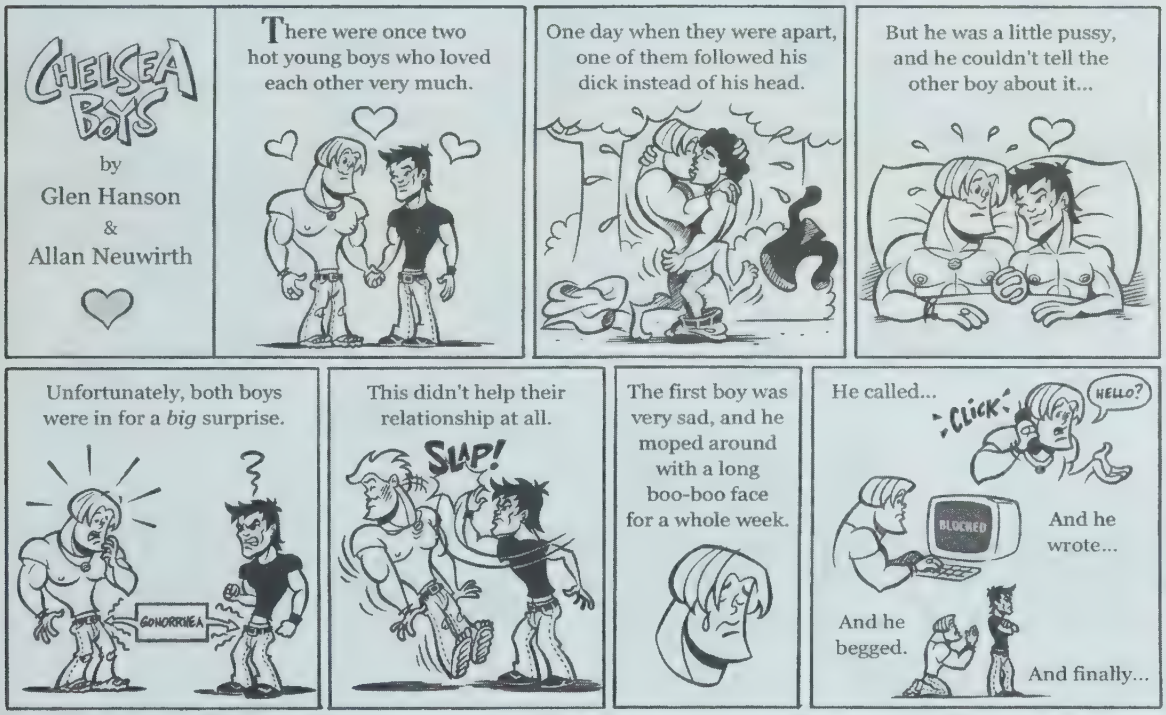

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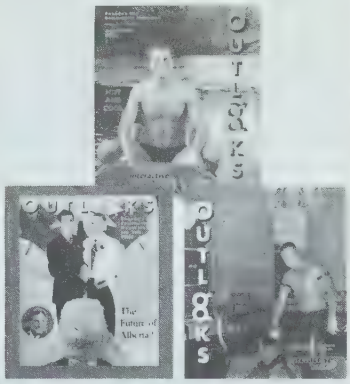

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Fedor Belokon, P.O. Box 122, Kiev-58, 03058, Ukraine.

Russian boy in Cyprus, 29, 5'11, looks younger, normal build, brown eyes and brown hair, good looking, educated, romantic, tender, longs to find a faithful boyfriend from anywhere for a long-term relationship and great love. I want to share my life with you, to be with you in good and bad times to give you all my feelings. Christian gays and gays with spiritual values are very welcome to write me! Don't waste your and my time if you're interested in fun without obligations. I want to marry the right person. Call Yuri.
Cell phone number 011-357 99909186.
E-mail: tchaikovsky@newmail.ru

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Complete this form and mail or fax it to Outlooks at the address on Page 5.
All ads placed on our website at no extra cost. Please do not mail cash.

Please place my ad in Category # _____
Please add the following headline to my ad ($10.00 extra): _____

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CARD NUMBER: _____
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Photograph *(1 x1 B&W):*	**$15.00**	_____
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SUBTOTAL per month:		_____
FREQUENCY:		
3 issues: SUBTRACT 10%		_____
6 issues: SUBTRACT 15%		_____
12 issues: SUBTRACT 20%		_____
ADD 7% GST:		_____
GRAND TOTAL:		_____

OUTLOOKS CLASSIFIEDS

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E.K. BOAKYE-ANDOH, P.O. Box 2291, Sunyani - B/A.

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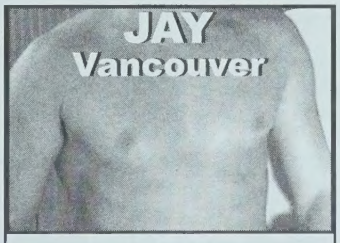

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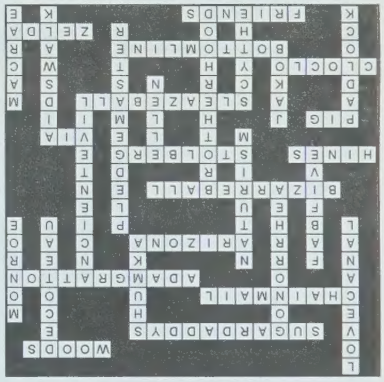
Crossword solution... Puzzle on page 27



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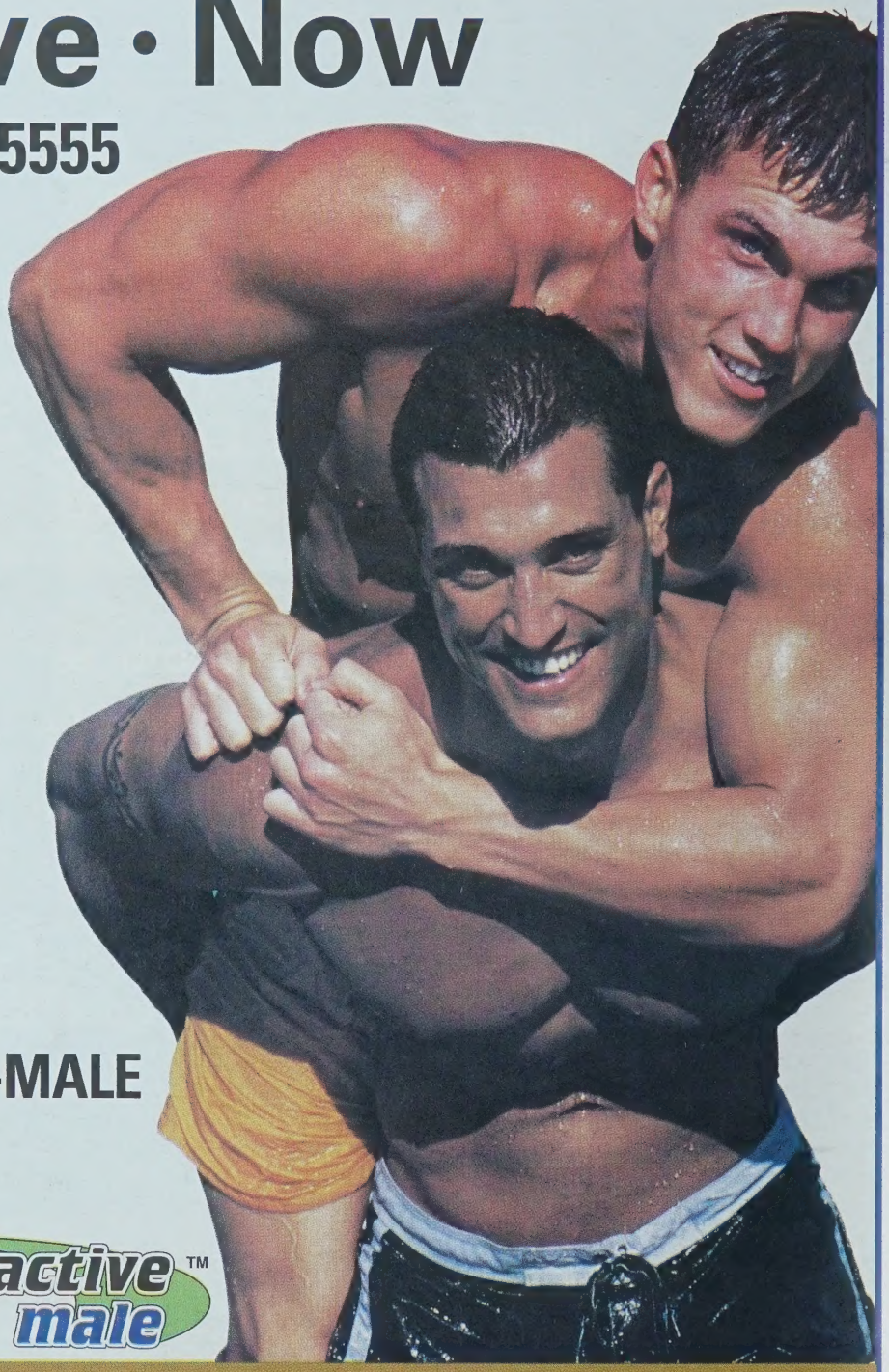

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